

the chronicle

Beer, cheer and a dip into the past for landlady Angela

– see page 4



Tinkering with cars and bikes helps put Liam on right road

– see page 13



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Lukewarm response to market plan

PLANS to redevelop Dudley's historic market have received a lukewarm response from residents who say the cash could be better spent elsewhere in the town.

Dudley Council revealed its plans for the market last week, asking people for their views on three options of how the site should look after a £6 million revamp.

But at a meeting of Central Dudley Area Committee some residents expressed concerns. They said the authority should look at improving roads, lowering rents and introducing free car parking to boost trade.

Isobel Byrne, of Oakham Road, Dudley, said all three development options were not in keeping with the historic nature of the town. "Dudley markets itself on being a traditional market town but these designs are modern," she said.

Her husband Paul added that new business should be the priority and called for road improvements.

Council officer Rupert Dugdale said the cash for the changes had come from a fund and could only be used for this purpose.

Councillors cautiously welcomed the scheme but Councillor Malcolm Davies said rents would still need to be looked at.

● Boulevard – See Page 2

Lenny to star at top theatre

DUDLEY star comedian Lenny Henry is returning to dramatic acting and this time will be appearing at one of the world's most prestigious theatre venues.

Lenny, who was the main presenter for the BBC's record-breaking Comic Relief night on Friday – which raised more than £74 million – will be making his debut at the National Theatre, on London's South Bank, in Shakespeare's The Comedy of Errors later this year.

The former Dudley Blue Coat School pupil made his stage drama debut in 2009, also in Shakespeare, playing Othello.

Bumble Hole crafts

CHILDREN can make their own Mother's Day gifts at a family craft event this Sunday. The session runs from 10.30am-2pm and will be held at the Bumble Hole Visitor Centre, Windmill End, Netherton.

Julie Tonkin will help participants make free cards and jewellery, for which there is a small charge.

Easter fun on Edge

VISITORS to Kinver Edge and rock houses can try their hands at some traditional Easter crafts. Youngsters will be able to paint an egg, make an Easter card or even create their own Easter garden. Sessions take place on April 14 between 10am and 12pm and 1pm and 3pm. It costs £3 per child.

I have Parkinson's – Tommy Mundon



Remaining hopeful – Tommy Mundon who has Parkinson's disease

BLACK Country comedian Tommy Mundon has been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease – but is facing up to it with his usual sense of humour.

Tommy, whose 77th birthday was last week, has spoken about how he is coping with the progressive neurological illness to give hope to others.

"I'm in the early stages and they've got good medication these days," said Tommy, who lives with his wife 59-year-old wife Val, in Alexandra Road, Halesowen.

"I've got patches that slowly release the medication to control the pain and I have physiotherapy at Corbett Hospital in Stourbridge.

"What I need to do now is to master the slight stammering

and stuttering I've got – but I've been doing some shows and have more planned this year.

"I used to write roughly what I was going to say in a performance.

"Now I'm getting it down in full for a set of about 20 minutes. I will still ad lib when I can."

Optimistic

It was a fall 18 months ago, in which he hurt his shoulder, that led Tommy to find out he was suffering from Parkinson's.

He said: "During the course of treatment for the shoulder, my doctor told me he had a feeling I'd got Parkinson's coming on – and Val noticed that I sometimes stared into space.

"I went to see a consultant at Dudley Guest Hospital and

eventually got the diagnosis." Tommy, who has a daughter and two grandchildren, has just started performing after a gap of a few months, appearing at the Goodyear Pavilion in Wolverhampton last Friday to raise money for the Beacon Centre for the Blind.

He has several other book-ings lined up and will be in a Black Country comedy tour of theatres, from October.

"I'm optimistic about the future and am getting there thanks to the medication and advice," he said.

Val, who will in September celebrate 40 years of marriage to Tommy, said: "The local Parkinson's nurses have been excellent.

"Tommy's attitude to it is great.

"A lot of people would throw in the towel – but he's quite determined."

Timely reminder

At 1am Sunday 27th your clocks go forward one hour to 2am



British summertime starts

'GOLLY FOLLY' ROW PAIR QUIT

Making a stand against what they see as political correctness gone mad – former Tory election candidates Bill and Star Etheridge with the offending golly doll and the disciplinary committee letter from the party



"When we were growing up it was just a toy and it didn't even look like a person..."

A BLACK Country couple due to stand as Tory candidates in a Dudley Council election have resigned from the party in a row over photographs of them posing with a golly doll.

Bill Etheridge, aged 41, and wife Star had been suspended from the Conservative Party after a complaint about the photographs which they posted on Facebook of them purposely holding up the doll.

But the couple, who were making a stand over political correctness, decided to stand down from the party.

Mr Etheridge said he had now joined UKIP instead. The "golly

folly" stand-off blew up after Mr Etheridge, chairman of the Claverley branch of the Conservative Association in Shropshire, and his wife, questioned what was wrong with the wild-haired black toys on their Facebook site.

The leader and deputy leader of Dudley Council, Councillors Anne Millward and Les Jones, last week warned them their stance against "political correctness" could provide people with ammunition against the Conservative Party ahead of the local elections.

Removed

On Friday the Etheridges were told in a letter from the party's head office voluntary section disciplinary committee in London that they were being suspended for 30 days.

The emailed letter said their actions might "bring the party into disrepute".

The couple, of Tipton Road, Sedgley, who are members of the Black Country Campaign Against Political Correctness, said they

could not understand why the dolls were such a politically sensitive issue.

Mr Etheridge said he was mystified why there was a "big deal" over the golly doll.

"When we were growing up it was just a toy and it didn't even look like a person," said Mr Etheridge, who had been selected to stand as Dudley Council candidate for Brockmoor and Pensnett in the next elections in May.

"We can't understand why they are now a 'no-go' area. The term 'political correctness gone mad' is well used – but this is a total golly folly."

Mrs Etheridge, 39, who was due to stand as Conservative candidate for the Coseley East ward, said: "I can't see how we can bring anyone into disrepute with a little rag doll."

The couple had removed the Facebook "golly" photos before Christmas after a local party member told them they could cause trouble – but they posted them back on their website "wall" after resigning.

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Computer generated impressions of how Dudley Market could look if Dudley Council's plans for a £6 million revamp of the historic site go ahead



Boulevard will be in market's £6m new look



The market in 1899

THIS is how Dudley's historic market place could look like following a £6 million revamp.

Under the plans, the tiled roof would be replaced with vintage-style canopies and a "market boulevard" would be created with trees and a walkway.

The statue of legendary Dudley-born footballer Duncan Edwards would be moved to the other end of the market.

The ageing toilet block would also be relocated to create an obstructed view of Dudley Castle. The 19th century fountain would be refurbished and a new moat created around the bottom.

The number of permanent stalls would be reduced from 74 pitches but Dudley Council, which is behind the scheme, said temporary stalls could be added on busy days. Cabinet member for regeneration

Councillor Les Jones said an application for cash from the European Regional Development Fund had passed the first stage.

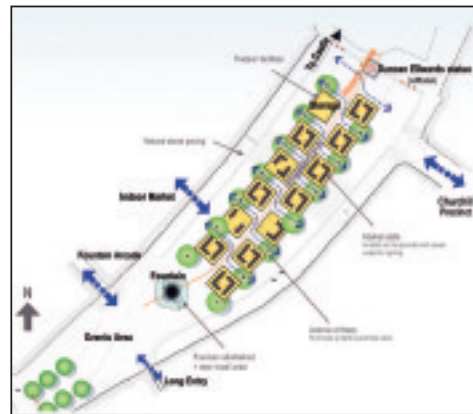
A decision on whether bosses will be given a £3 million grant towards the scheme will be announced later this year.

The rest of the money is coming from council capital receipts and once the funding is secured, work on the redevelopment could get under way by the middle of next year, with completion expected in summer 2013.

Opportunities

Councillor Jones said: "Dudley's market place is the only one of its kind in the region to be located in the heart of a town's high street, so the makeover is the fundamental showpiece project to the wider regeneration of Dudley town centre."

"The project will make up the biggest revamp of the town in more than two decades and it will



One of the three plans that are part of the public consultation

breathe fresh life into the existing market place, to create a continual market boulevard."

Three designs for a new market, with different stall layouts, have been drawn up and people are now being asked for their views on the proposals.

Councillor Jones said the market project was pivotal to a wider redevelopment of the town centre, which would include a revamp of Castle Hill.

"We are very keen to hear what people think and there are certainly plenty of opportunities to take part in the consultation," he said.

"While we have presented three options, it may be that the final design could be different or could incorporate elements of each to

create a fourth option." But market trader, David Flavell, aged 50, who has a fruit and veg stall, said he feared the revamp would not be enough to lure shoppers back into the town.

Planting

"It is a lot of money to spend on just replacing the stalls and planting some trees. Don't think it's going to make a difference and make people shop here again," he said.

The consultation runs until April 29. Information stands will be the fountain from 10am to 3pm March 23 to 26, April 13 to 16 and on April 23.

The consultation form can also be filled in online at www.dudley.gov.uk

Healthy success

A COLLEGE in the Black Country has been recognised for encouraging staff and students to adopt healthy lifestyles.

Halesowen College has secured Healthy Further Education College recognition after providing healthy options in the canteen and free exercise and gym sessions.

The success will be included in a list of recognised healthy colleges. Jane O'Sullivan, curriculum team manager for foundation, travel and hospitality, said she was "really pleased".

Patrols to increase

POLICE in a Sandwell neighbourhood are battling anti-social behaviour by stepping up patrols and conducting spot checks on licensed premises.

The Black Heath neighbourhood team said they are receiving reports of booze-fueled anti-social behaviour. They are carrying out high-visibility patrols.

Arts Centre gets crafty

A CRAFT market, jewellery stalls and Easter gifts are among the highlights of an event in Dudley this month.

Netherton Arts Centre, in Northfield Road, holds the Easter market on Sunday (March 27) from 11am.

Watch group

A NEIGHBOURHOOD watch meeting is due to be held at the Salvation Army base in Meredith Street, Cradley Heath, today (Thursday) at 10am.

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Grunt and grapple at centre

A NIGHT of wrestling will be held at a Black Country leisure centre on Saturday (March 26). Stars of the Alternative Wrestling World company will make their debut at Haden Hill Leisure Centre in Cradley Heath.

The venue has seen its fair share of action over the years, including visits by UK wrestling stars Big Daddy and The British Bulldog - Davey Boy Smith.

And on Saturday the current AWW British Tag

Team Champions - Carnatio - will defend their titles against the number one contenders.

Also scheduled to appear are top UK wrestlers MK Mikinan, "Tomcat" Kevin O'Neil, Dan Ryder, "Assassin" Dave Williams and the current AWW British Champion - Maddog Maxx.

Tickets for the night are available from the Barrs Road leisure centre priced £7 in advance or £8 on the door. The event will get under way at 6pm.

College campus work nearing completion



Project manager Gordon McCartin and site manager Paul Davis are pictured onsite at the developing Brierley Hill campus of Stourbridge College

THIS new picture shows how work on a new college campus in Brierley Hill is moving closer to completion.

Contractors expect to finish the external construction work on the Stourbridge College development in time for a topping-out ceremony tomorrow (March 25).

It will mark the installation of the last tile on the roof. Workers will then move on to fitting the windows before starting work on the interior. The building is already dominating the skyline at the old Brier School site off Venture Way.

Work began in September last year on the new creative industries campus, which will offer arts and digital-based courses.

College spokeswoman Mags Winthrop said: "It is very exciting. Everyone is looking forward to it opening in September." The college will house up to 1,000 students and replace the Longlands campus in Stourbridge.

An original £31million scheme, on the old Brier School site, was scaled back after the Learning and Skills Council withdrew £15m of pledged funding.

Trappings of mayor's office go on display in library

ROBES, medals and the mayoral mace were due to be on display at a talk in Tipton today (March 24).

John May, from the mayor's office at Sandwell Council, was speaking at the event in Tipton Library, in Unity Walk, at 10.30am. He was discussing what holding the ceremonial position entails.

Walks to visit beauty spots

A FESTIVAL of walks through a range of beauty spots in Dudley borough will get under way next month.

The Dudley Walking Festival will feature more than 20 walks at nature reserves, parks and canal towpaths across the borough.

It will run from April 23 and finish on May 1.

Venues for the walks include Himley Park, Wrens Nest National Nature

Reserve, Dudley; The Leasowes, Halesowen; Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge; Netherton Park; Wordsley; Priory Park, Dudley; Saltwells, Netherton; Baggesley, Sedgley; Huntingtree, Halesowen; Silver Jubilee Park, Coseley and Cotwall End, Sedgley.

Most of the walks are free and people can view the brochure online at www.dudley.gov.uk, pick up a copy from local libraries or leisure centres or call 0300 555 2345.

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Angela's asking around about her pub



Landlady Angela Turner from the White Swan pub, Baptist End Road, Netherton, who is looking for people to get in touch to inform her about its history

THE new owners of a Dudley pub are hoping to pull in the community to help them discover the history behind the building.

The White Swan, in Baptist End Road, Netherton, was empty for around a month before Angela Turner and her partner, Con O'Mahoney, took over, at the end of January.

Since its reopening on February 11, the couple are now hoping that local residents will support them in their new venture and help them learn more about the White Swan's history.

In the past, residents have encountered a series of problems concerning loud music,

but since taking over the couple have vowed that noise levels will be kept to a minimum in a bid to welcome back old punters to the pub, which was formerly known as Tommy Turner's.

New landlady Angela said: "We are trying hard to get the pub back to how it was - a community establishment for all of the family."

Daughter

"We have had a few people drop by to express their concerns after problems with the previous owners, but we want to be able to work with them to give them back the pub they used to love coming to."

"The support that we have received so

far, from residents and other local licensees, has been lovely and we hope to be able to give them a place at the heart of their town that they can enjoy."

The couple are eager to find out more about the property for a commemorative plaque and picture to display behind the bar.

Angela, who is originally from Walsall, said: "This is a new start for us and our daughter and we are very eager to find out more about the town and the history of this pub."

"It would be great to get some feedback and information from local people to help us draw upon the stories that lie within the building."

Insurance hitch over church reopening bid

New store's virtual bank scheme

SCHOOLS and charities in part of the Black Country will benefit from a "virtual bank" set up by a supermarket to raise funds for good causes.

A new Costcutter store has opened at the former Broadstones pub site, in Two Gates, Colley Gate, Halesowen. The building, which had fallen into disrepair, has been refurbished at a cost of hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Now store staff are planning to set up a fund to be shared among schools and charities. A list of products will be drawn up and for every one purchased 1p or 2p will be set aside by the store to go into the account.

Support

The products on the list will change every three weeks and over time the store hopes a pot of money will be built up to help good causes.

Staff hope there will be enough money for the first bids to be made in six months.

Area sales manager Paul Woodall, who is also a Tory councillor for Kingswinford said: "This is the first time there has been a Costcutter store in Colley Gate. We hope people will support the virtual bank."



Paul Woodall and shop boss Javid Iqbal celebrate the opening of the new store



St John's Church in Dudley

CAMPAIGNERS fighting to re-open a Black Country church on a part-time basis have suffered a blow after being told they cannot get insurance for the building.

Members of the St John's Church Preservation Group had hoped to get the go-ahead to open the church for a few hours a week to help with fundraising.

But their insurance company has said it cannot insure the building in Kates Hill, Dudley, in its present state as they feel it is unsafe for the public.

The church closed in 2002 due to safety fears but recent surveys have shown the church nave and chancel are structurally sound. The preservation group is working with church leaders and will be contacting a specialist conservation architect for advice.

Frustrating

Group chairman Deb Brownlee said: "The situation with getting the building re-opened is rather frustrating but we are working hard with the Diocese of Worcester and St John's Church Steering Group to try to achieve this."

Members of the preservation group are asking members and supporters for ideas for future uses for the church.

It is expected to cost £150,000 to 200,000 to get the building reopened and up to £1million to restore it. The church is where bare-knuckle fighter William Perry, known as the Tipton Slasher, is buried.

Donations to: St John's Church Preservation Group, The Old School House, St John's Road, Dudley, DY2 7JT. Website: www.savestjohnschurch.zoomshare.com

Parking restriction schemes target 70 roads in two towns

NEW parking restrictions are planned for 70 residential and main roads around Halesowen and Quarry Bank.

The proposals are double the size of a controversial scheme which has been introduced in the Shell Corner area of Halesowen in recent months.

The latest plans involve painting double yellow lines along the length or sections of streets in a bid to prevent them being blocked by inconsiderate motorists. One-way systems may be introduced on some

streets. Other restrictions being considered are parking time limits, parking for blue badge holders and creating access for homeowners only.

Cabinet member for transport, Councillor Angus Adams, said the plans had been drawn up following recommendations from residents affected by parking problems.

The A458 Mucklow Hill and Furnace Lane near Earls High School, in Halesowen, are two of the busiest routes which could get the double lines. Parking bans are also proposed near schools including Howley Grange Primary, in Howley

Grange Road, Halesowen and Lutley Primary School, in Brookwillow Road, Halesowen. Residents and ward councillors have been discussing ways to reduce congestion in Brookwillow Road for the past four years.

Ward Councillor Ken Turner says he welcomes plans for parking restrictions and a one way system in the road.

He added no final decision had been made yet and a consultation had started to gather people's views. "We want people to get in touch with us to tell us what they think," he said.

Round Oak staff reunion

AREUNION has been organised for former staff of the accounting departments of Brierley Hill's Round Oak Steel Works.

The reunion is due to take place on Wednesday, April 13 at The Old Cat pub in Wordsley.

Some will not have seen each other for 40 years. In its heyday the plant, now the site of the Merry Hill Shopping Centre, employed more than 3,000 people. Round Oak finally closed in 1982 after profitability was hit by cheaper steel

imports. One of the organisers, Pauline Iddles (nee Tittley), said: "We are still looking for past comrades. Anyone in contact with, or who worked in the cost office, Hollerith, wages or internal audit departments in the 1960s and 1970s and are interested in attending the reunion, are very welcome, along with partners if they wish."

Contact either Roy Sanders (01384 265477) or Pauline (01384 271430) for more information.

Garden help scheme may be weeded out

Book characters brought to life

STORYBOOK characters were brought to life by youngsters at a Black Country school for a day devoted to reading and writing.

Children at the Dormston School, in Mill Bank, Sedgley, dressed as Harry Potter, Captain Hook and Tinkerbell to celebrate World Book Day.

Birmingham poet Matt Windle also paid a visit to teach youngsters how to structure a poem and choose the best words to express themselves. He also performed some of his own works for the pupils. At the end of the talk, children got the chance to create and perform poems of their own. All of the events were held in the school library.

Librarian Zoe Rowley said: "The aim of the day was to highlight the importance of reading and poetry to the children while at the same time having fun."



Poppy Tonkinson, aged 11, and librarian Zoe Rowley celebrate World Book Day at Dormston School, Sedgley

MORE than 60 gardens of elderly residents in Dudley have been spruced up as part of a programme to improve the outside of council homes.

The council launched a gardening assistance scheme in April last year to help elderly and vulnerable tenants who were struggling to maintain their gardens through no fault of their own.

Many had problems getting out and about because of their age, meaning gardens had become overgrown and unsightly. More than £100,000 was set aside for the scheme.

Maintenance

But council bosses are now warning that its future could be under doubt.

The figures out in a report on the tenancy and estate management arrangements by Dudley Council show the council has so far completed 24 garden clearances across the borough at a cost of £15,226.

Workers have also carried out gardening tasks at another 37 properties at a cost of £4,361 as part of the maintenance scheme.

But the report adds that the "sustainability of the scheme will have to be reviewed if take-up of the scheme does not increase."

Firefighters in all in a lather boost Help for Heroes fund

A FUNDRAISING car wash held by Brierley Hill firefighters coined in £315 for charity.

All proceeds will go towards the Firefighters Charity and Help for Heroes. Firefighter Andrew Tansley said the car wash, organised on Saturday, March 12 had been a "great success".

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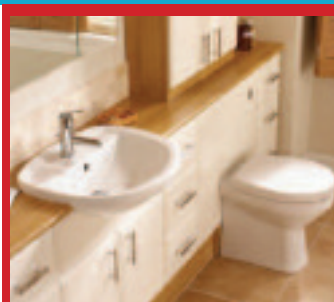
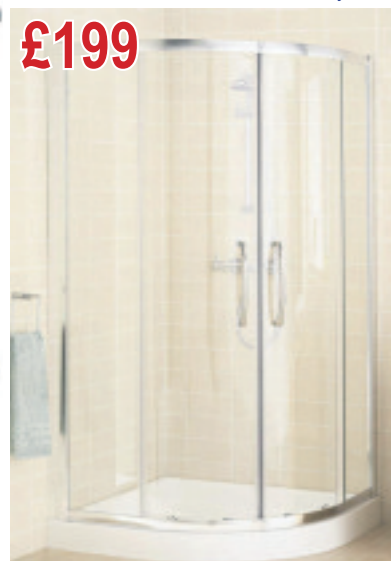
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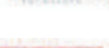
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'Jentle Jazz' kicks off at footy ground



Jazz musician Bobby Johnson who is playing at Stourbridge Football Club

MUSICIAN Bobby Johnson has kicked off a new series of jazz concerts at a football club in the Black Country.

The next performance by Bobby Johnson's Jentle Jazz band will be at Stourbridge FC's War Memorial ground in

High Street, Amblecote on Sunday, April 17.

Mr Johnson, aged 80, has previously held jazz sessions at the Broadway Inn in Norton but was forced to find another venue when the pub shut last month.

The first concert at the new venue was last Sunday.

Saxophone and trombone player Mr Johnson, from Richmond Grove, hopes the sessions will now become a monthly event.

Two parking tickets a day at the hospital

MORE THAN 130 parking tickets were handed out to staff, visitors and patients at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital in two months, new figures reveal.

Motorists caught flouting the rules by parking inappropriately or on red lines are fined £15.

In January hospital bosses painted further red lines around the staff car parks to show workers where they can and

cannot leave their cars as part of controversial new parking arrangements. It followed the introduction of red lines elsewhere, including by the A&E department. Hospital figures show that between January 1 and February 28, 131 fines were handed out. If not paid within 14 days, the fee is increased to £30.

Chief executive Paula Clark said: "Car parking facilities at Russells Hall Hospital are provided by Summit Healthcare (Dudley) Ltd and managed by Interserve.

"There is a fixed penalty notice system in place for patients, visitors and staff who park their vehicles inappropriately.

"Notices warning people are clearly displayed."

In January, plans to introduce a staff parking permit scheme were thrown into chaos because of a dispute over who was allowed a space. Everyone has now been granted temporary access to staff car parks on a first-come, first-served basis. Bosses are monitoring traffic flow and assessing permit applications.

Tractors will line streets

CLASSIC and vintage tractors will line the streets of Bridgnorth as part of an annual extravaganza next month.

Visitors can glimpse the classic machines as part of the 13th annual Shropshire Tractor Run on April 10.

The event is being organised by the Bridgnorth Vintage Machinery Club, which has been based in and around the town since 1986.

More than 80 tractor enthusiasts from across the country are expected to take part. Details at www.bvmc.org.uk

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Back from quake hell

BLACK Country firefighters returning from earthquake-ravaged Japan have told of their heart-rending search for survivors amid some of the worst scenes imaginable.

Twelve West Midlands firefighters from the International Search and Rescue (ISAR) squad are just back from the disaster-hit northern region of the country, swamped by a 33ft-high tsunami which followed the quake.

They include Cradley Heath watch commander Rudy Parkes, of Stourbridge; watch commander Dean Yates of Halesowen fire station; station commander at Oldbury and Cradley Heath, Dean Harris, also from Stour-

bridge; and Dudley fire station watch commander Russ Gauden of Kinver.

They were part of a 59-strong team from across the UK that also included two rescue dogs and four medical staff and spent three full days searching two towns in Northern Japan where tens of thousands were missing.

All 12 were involved in a similar mission when an earthquake hit Haiti just over a year ago, while four were involved in the rescue efforts in New Zealand and had arrived back home in the UK just days before having to fly out again.

Snow

But it seems their rescue mission in the wrecked coastal cities of Ofunato and Kamaishi was among their toughest yet.

Russ Gauden, aged 39, said the

Rescue team tells of mission impossible amid the chaos

scenes of devastation were "beyond comprehension".

He said in some areas they were climbing on 15ft high piles of debris that were covered in ice and snow.

"We saw a 50ft high ship in the middle of a residential area and fish the size of dustbin lids a mile from the coast," he added.

Veteran firefighter Rudy Parkes volunteered in the incident control room in the West Midlands fire service head-

quarters in Birmingham after the quake in New Zealand last month.

Then he received a call to head to Japan. He said the scene there was the worst he had seen in 23 years of International Search and Rescue.

Sadness

Mr Parkes added: "It was a scene of utter devastation, the worst I've ever seen."

"In one case I was looking inside a

house and thought something was wrong until I realised it was completely upside down.

"Two of our teams elsewhere had some success in finding one old lady between two mattresses alive and in another area they found one old lady and her 16-year-old grandson."

Father-of-two Dean Yates, 41, of Ironbridge, admitted there was "a great deal of sadness" that no survivors had been found during their deployment.



Firefighter Rudy Parkes

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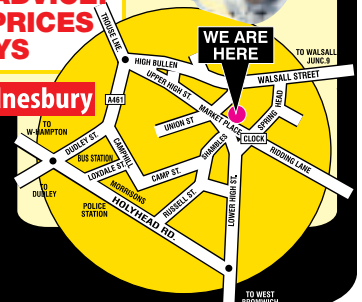


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A call to arms as museum has war in sights

RIFLE drills, street clearing and talks on weaponry were all part of a World War I re-enactment day at the Black Country Living Museum.

The Great War Society and the Warwick 1914-1918 Living History Group set up camp in the museum's traditional village recently, whisking visitors back in time to wartime Britain.

Soldiers staged street clearing exercises and even a World War I recruitment drive before sitting visitors down to chat about the uniforms and weapons of British soldiers in the early 1900s.

Setting

Great War Society chairman Trevor Poole, aged 38, said: "We got a lot of interest from members of the public, and a lot of people were stopping to ask questions."

"It was a very enjoyable day. We did a couple of presentations on the uniform and equipment, and did some static displays as well."

He added: "We have been to the museum several times before. It's one of our favourite venues as it's a beautiful period setting, with very little that would look out of place in 1914."

The event was a practice of sorts for the two groups, who then headed to Wolston, near Coventry.

Here, they took part in the annual memorial parade for the anniversary of King George's inspection of the 29th Division of the British Army in March 1915. The national society was founded in 1984.



Above: Eyes front as the 'recruitment drive' takes to the streets

Left: Attention - Great War Society chairman Trevor Poole drills his men as visitors watch during a Black Country Living Museum display

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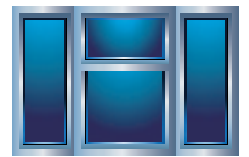


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Pet reunion proves bunny coincidence



Jodie Jones, of Wombourne, with her rabbit Tuloola and her brother Cameron

A RUNAWAY rabbit has been reunited with its owners after going missing for three days.

Tuloola, a Netherland dwarf rabbit, escaped from Beverley Jones's garden in St Bride's Close, Wombourne, on March 4.

The mother-of-four put an advert in the Express & Star appealing for information but three days later, the four-month-old bunny turned up in the garden of a woman living in the village, who then happened to go into the nearby Beddow Fishing Tackle shop where Miss Jones's 16-year-old son Cameron was on work experience.

Gobsmacked

Miss Jones, aged 50, said today: "I couldn't believe it when it turned out to be Tuloola. I was gobsmacked."

The woman who found Tuloola lived in Brunel Court, which means the rabbit must have travelled almost a mile from its home.

Miss Jones bought Tuloola and sister Flopsy as Christmas presents for her 10-year-old daughter Jodie. "We are all so pleased to have her back," she said.

Paddles at the ready for dragon boat crews

AN annual dragon boat race which has raised £230,000 for good causes is returning to the Black Country on May 22, organisers have announced.

The Rotary Club of Wolverhampton will stage its 11th annual Dragon Boat Challenge at the Great Pool in Himley. Last year 18 teams, made up of businesses, schools and council staff from across the region, competed in the race raising more than £18,000 for charities from across the country.

Organisers are hoping for a similar turnout this year. They want to push the event's fundraising total to £250,000 since the inaugural race in 2000.

And they are urging teams to move quickly to secure a spot at the fundraiser after an earlier-than-expected rush for places.

Dragon boat race committee chairman Rod Jones said: "There are only 30 boats available and already over half of these are committed. We have never had this level of response before and we are hoping for a sell-out. We have struggled in previous years to attract participants but this year we have got more schools involved and we now only have about 10 places left."

Teams of 20 rowers, including four substitutes, will have to tackle a 2000m course in a series of timed heats, with the four fastest teams then qualifying for a head-to-head final.

Split

Crews are regularly made up of teams from local companies, building societies, police, councils, schools, sports clubs, charities and pubs as well as RAF Cosford. Last year's event even attracted a team from National Lottery organisers Camelot.

Crews are being asked to secure a minimum of £1,000 sponsorship for the event, which is then split between a charity nominated by the crew and the club's Rotary charitable trust.

The winner's trophy was last year taken by Joner's Ark, a team from Goodrich Aerospace in Wolverhampton. For an entry form log on to www.rotarydragonboats.co.uk

Relief as tests show all-clear

THE mother, two brothers and sister of tragic Halesowen teenager Leon Mansell have been given the all-clear following heart and blood tests to see whether they suffer the heart condition which killed him.

His mother Jean, brothers Craig, aged 24, and Matthew, 17, and sister Kerrie, 19, have all been told they are fit and well. Mrs Mansell, 48, of Beecher Street, Colley Gate, said the news was a "great relief". However, Leon's father Bernard, 55, who lives in California, has undergone similar testing in the United States and has been referred to a cardiologist.

Leon, 14, died suddenly of a heart attack on January 5.

Lifeline project for disabled faces axe

A VITAL project offering respite care for disabled youngsters in Sandwell is set to close after £200,000 of council funding was pulled.

The Sandcastle project fixes breaks and after-school clubs. Based in Laburnum Road, in Walsall, the club will close in April after losing the cash.

Lisa Smith, aged 44, of Dudhill Road, Rowley Regis, used the service with her son Luke, aged 13, who suffers from autism. She

was horrified to hear the scheme would be ending.

She said: "This service is a real lifeline for people with disabled children and there is nothing else like it in the area."

Councillor Bob Badham, Sandwell's cabinet member for children and families, said: "The foster care contract will end because it is not able to fully meet the identified required needs of a key group of children and young people."

Mayors join tea dance for charity



Among the dancers are, from left, deputy Mayor of Dudley Councillor Michael Evans, Mayoress and Mayor of Walsall Yvonne and Gary Clarke, Consort Krysta McCordie and her husband, Chairman Robert McCordie, with, front, Mayoress and Mayor of Dudley Hilary Miller and Councillor Peter Miller

MAYORS from two Black Country towns were joined by fleet-footed residents at a recent tea dance to raise cash for charity.

The event at Kingswinford Community Centre was organised by Councillor Peter Miller, the Mayor of Dudley. About 30 residents showed off their dancing skills to steps including waltz and foxtrot.

All proceeds will go to the Mayor's chosen charities for 2010/11, the Thomas Pocklington Trust, Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge, Acorns Children's Hospice and the Alzheimer's Society.

In between dances during the two-hour

event, people could sit and have a chat over a cup of tea and a cake. Councillor Miller invited Councillor Gary Clarke, the Mayor of Walsall, and his wife Yvonne, along with the chairman of South Staffordshire Council Robert McCordie and wife Krysta.

Worthy

Councillor Miller said: "It was an excellent day and everyone had a very good time."

"This is just one of a series of events we have to raise money for these very worthwhile charities." More than £100 is thought to have been raised through ticket prices.

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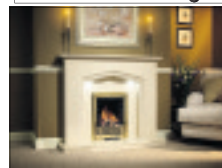
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Full steam ahead as rail work nears end

Cash boost for mental health

A BLACK Country branch of a mental health charity has set up self-help groups using a £1,000 grant.

The Stourbridge-based area headquarters for the charity Dudley Mind has been handed the cash by Dudley Primary Care Trust.

An initial £1,000 grant has been awarded so the groups can get under way in the Stourbridge, Dudley and Halesowen areas.

The charity is running groups to help people with mental health conditions, such as depression, anxiety and postnatal depression.

Dates and times have not yet been arranged but sessions will be at the charity's base at the Mary Stevens Centre in Hagley Road, Stourbridge.

Chief executive Martin Mueller said: "Past experience shows how helpful these groups can be."



Day services head Nagheena Qamar with Caroline Roe and Martin Mueller

A £500,000 IMPROVEMENT scheme on the Severn Valley Railway is nearing completion after new platforms were built and tracks relaid.

Work has been taking place at Arley and Bewdley stations since January, forcing the partial closure of the historic railway which receives thousands of visitors every year.

Railway chiefs said the project was due to be finished on time and the line is scheduled to reopen fully on Saturday (March 26) as planned.

Work to improve drainage at Arley station has been finished and decaying platforms replaced. Three test walls were built before the new platforms were constructed to ensure that they would fit in with the character of the station.

Brickwork

Tracks have been relaid and the signal boxes are now being reconnected – the last phase of the scheme.

In Bewdley, signalling equipment and tracks were removed from the top of the 10-arch viaduct in Station Road.

Workers then dug into the top of the structure to the arches' brickwork and laid new waterproof material to strengthen the viaduct. A new layer of concrete was put down and timber sleepers, dating back to 1948 when the Great Western Railway laid the track, have also been replaced.

Tracks have now been relaid to reconnect the station to the nearby Kidderminster branch line.

Railway visitor services manager David Mee said good weather had been a help in getting the project completed on time.

Walkers to stroll into spring at the local nature reserve

A SPRING WALK at a Dudley nature reserve on Saturday (March 26) will look for the first signs of the new season.

It has been organised by the Friends of Cotwall End Valley and walkers should meet at Brookswood Animal Sanctuary car park, on the corner on Cotwall End Road and Catholic Lane, Sedgley. Call 07849 804242 for more details.

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Liam Evitts at work at the Barnado's Wheels project which he says has helped him turn his life around

How cars put Liam back on right road

A project helps youngsters who struggle to cope with mainstream education. **ALEX WAINWRIGHT** talks to one of its successes

LIFE as a student is not always easy, especially if you are seen as a trouble maker or the class clown.

Liam Evitts, a 15-year-old from Netherton, knows how this feels. Although he was a bright student, he got bored easily and was often in trouble.

He was also regularly in trouble out of school with the police for minor offences.

But Liam has now turned his life around with the help of a mechanics project in Stourbridge where he has learnt new skills and values that have given him a fresh outlook on life.

At the age of 10 Liam was diagnosed with ADHD, a chemical imbalance in the brain which affects attention, concentration and impulsivity, and was put on medication to treat the condition.

At school he was disruptive and excluded several times. He was kept back a year and his behaviour got worse, and after striking a teacher, he was permanently excluded.

Interesting

Liam says: "I don't know why I did it. I just liked the attention in class I suppose."

Eventually he was offered a place at the Barnado's Wheels project, on Rufford Road, Stourbridge.

Wheels aims to turn the lives of youngsters around who struggle with mainstream education. It provides them with motor mechanics training while keeping up with core skills like numeracy and literacy. Most youngsters attend the project a few days a week, but Liam spends five days a week there.

"I didn't really want to come to Barnardo's, but when I got here it was all right," he says. "I already knew some people and now I really enjoy it."

There are around 90 youngsters aged 14 to 16 who attend the project, and although it is mainly boys, there are three girls enrolled. They are all from the Dudley borough and surrounding areas, like Kidderminster and Sandwell.

The purpose of the project is to re-engage youngsters and give them the skills to go on to further education or

employment. The staff also work in partnership with the schools the youngsters attend to try to improve their situations.

The youngsters get hands-on experience with cars to learn mechanics, and are also taught the theory side so they can get a motor mechanic's qualification.

Project manager Ian Hinkman thinks it is important to give youngsters the opportunity to learn new skills.

"Learning a trade is crucial, and doing this teaches them about working life," he says. "Even though they might not go on to be mechanics, they still learn so many transferable skills."

In the workshop there are around 12 to 15 youngsters at a time and they get to put forward their own ideas on what to do with the cars and bikes.

They are currently working on a project to build a working banger car, which if they get to work they will be able to drive off road on some nearby farm land which they have permission to use.

To be able to do these projects, Wheels is always looking for donations of vehicle parts and mechanics tools and are currently appealing for donations.

Liam likes these projects, which he finds interesting and which give him more variety. He says: "I enjoy projects where I can do my own thing. Like building the banger car, it's good fun. I like working on bikes the most."

"I do sometimes get bored because I know what I'm doing now, so I don't really enjoy changing things like brakes all the time."

"But because I know what I'm doing I help people out now. Being in the workshop makes you know what work is. You know what to expect."

Liam has passed his Institute of Motor Industry Level 1 examinations and is now looking to do the same with his numeracy and literacy exams in May. The numeracy and literacy classes are small

and youngsters learn the subjects in a way that engages them. A numeracy class might involve maths problems about car engines, or how to book the cheapest holiday.

Future

Mr Hinkman says: "We're really flexible and keep them engaged, everything is very hands on. Instead of them being one person in a class of 30, they're one in a class of six."

The project also makes sure good relationships are kept between the staff and youngsters. Mr Hinkman says: "We call them by their first names and they call us by our

first names." Liam agrees. "You get treated like an adult here. If you give respect, you get it back," he says.

Mr Hinkman admits the behaviour of youngsters does not automatically change when they come to the project. He says: "It doesn't just stop straight away, it happens gradually. But we do see so many positive results."

Since being at Wheels, Liam kept himself out of trouble. Instead of being out on the streets he now spends time at his time at friend's houses. He now wants to go on to further education.

"I'm not sure what I want to do," he says. "I

think I want to work with kids. Maybe helping disabled kids or help kids who are struggling to turn their lives around."

Although Liam might not want to do mechanics in the future, he has no doubts about how much the project has helped him.

Liam said his future would have been him on the dole living with his mum, or maybe worse.

He says: "If I hadn't come here I'd have a criminal record and definitely be in a youth offending institute by now."

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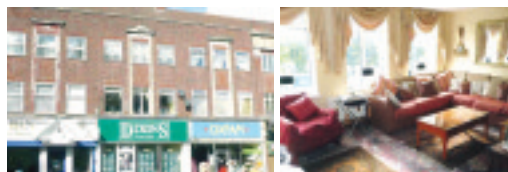
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Deserves

To enter this competition, write in to Mother's Day Competition, Chronicle editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES and explain why your mum deserves to be spoilt with this shopping treat!

The word limit is 50 words and the deadline is Thursday, March 31. Make sure you include your name, address, date of birth and a contact phone number. Best of luck!

Take a look at the website to discover the top fashion trends for this Spring <http://uk.westfield.com/merryhill/>

Merry Hill is also giving away free Thornton's chocolates when you buy your mum a gift card worth £20 or more for Mother's Day.

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Put a smile on your mum's face with this shopping treat

Origin from era of ancient Greeks

When did it all start... the origin of Mother's Day goes back to the era of ancient Greek and Romans. But the roots of Mother's Day history can also be traced in UK where a Mothering Sunday was celebrated much before the festival saw the light of the day in US.

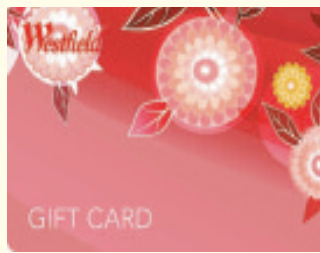
However, the celebration of the festival as it is seen today is a recent phenomenon and not even 100 years old.

It is thanks to the hard work of the

pioneering women of their times, Julia Ward Howe and Anna Jarvis that the day came into existence.

Today the festival of Mother's Day is celebrated across 46 countries (though on different dates) and is a hugely popular affair.

Millions of people across the globe take the day as an opportunity to honor their mothers, thank them for their efforts in giving them life, raising them and being their constant support and well wisher.



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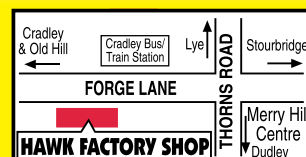
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Shops' damages claim is rejected

Drop-kickers drop in



Ray Field, right, head of the English Wado Federation, puts Lcpl Daniel Blackhall, Pte Shayne Leach, Lcpl Lewis Pritchard, Lcpl Robert Upton and, front, Pte Shelley Darroch through their paces

AROUND 40 martial arts fans from across the UK drop-kicked into Dudley for a fundraising seminar and tutorials in kung fu, self-defence and weapons.

The event was organised by members of the Dudley branch of the English Wado Federation, which teaches the wado karate discipline.

It was held at the Dudley TA Centre in Vicar Street to bring in cash for the ward at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital which cares for military person-

nel. Tutors came from as far as Plymouth and Essex.

Organiser Roy Perry said money raised was still being counted. "It went very well," said Mr Perry, aged 50, from Sedgley.

"We had martial arts instructors demonstrating various different disciplines, including one who was showing how to work with nunchucks."

"We even had some soldiers from the TA Centre come along to pick up some new skills which was great."

TRADERS hit by road-works in a Black Country high street are furious after their claims for thousands of pounds in compensation were rejected.

Some businesses in Sedgley saw profits dip by up to 30 per cent during the works and wanted a payout from National Grid.

But firms have been told they will not get any money back as the losses suffered were not a big enough proportion of annual turnover. The six-week long gas main replacement scheme last summer caused long traffic jams and led to people avoiding the high street.

Daniel Price, owner of the BD Price Bike Shop in High Holborn, asked for £1,400. Three other traders in the Concord Centre looked for similar amounts, while the Co-operative submitted a claim for £5,000. All were refused.

Mr Price said National Grid explained that, as the losses were not five per cent of the traders' annual turnover, the claim had been rejected. He said: "This was really an impossible situation for us from the start."

"Five per cent of annual turnover is a large amount - they never told us about this in the first place." National Grid spokeswoman Michelle Smedley, said the work had been "a short-term inconvenience for a long-term benefit" and the work had been essential.

Paper recycling plan

A GLASS recycling site in Tipton could soon recycle paper too.

Viridor Waste Management Ltd, which owns the depot in Tipton Road, wants to open a new building there for cardboard recycling. Sandwell Council will decide in May.

Hot food van must leave pub

A HOT FOOD van based at a Stourbridge pub will have to move after councillors refused to grant it planning permission.

Julie Hale had applied to stay on the site of the Cross Inn, Glasshouse Hill.

But the chairman of Dudley Council's planning committee said the van "stands out like a sore thumb".

Councillors were told Mrs Hale had closed the business since submitting the application.

Planning officer Daniel Owen said checks would be made to make sure the van was removed.

Last February Mrs Hale was granted permission to stay on the site for 12 months.

Committee chairman Tim Wright said: "We gave it 12 months. It does stand out like a sore thumb."

"It is a shame when a business closes; I wouldn't be surprised if we see this van elsewhere in Stourbridge soon."

Centre site prepared

THE first visible sign of development on the site of a proposed new health centre in Great Bridge is now in place.

Fences have been put up around the former car park in Great Bridge ahead of Sandwell Primary Care Trust's expected planning application next month.

The authority wants to build a £5million health centre including two GP surgeries. The authority hopes work will begin by summer of next year.

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thechronicle

MP hits at move over top officer

A WEST Midlands Labour MP has condemned the "grotesque paradox" of Government plans to raise the pension age of police – as scores of senior officers like Sandwell's Steve Dugmore are being forced to retire early to cut costs.

Warley MP John Spellar said it was "economics of the mad-house".

Chief Supt Dugmore, head of Sandwell Police, is being retired next month, aged only 48, in a cull of 300 senior officers by West Midlands Police Authority.

But the Government-commissioned Hutton Report called for the normal age at which most public sector staff can start drawing their pension to be increased to be the same as the state pension age.

Mr Spellar told the Commons it was a "grotesque paradox".

He said West Midlands Police were acting under a Home Office diktat because of a rule that allowed them to "sack people" after 30 years' service. Mr Spellar said: "Is that not absolutely absurd?"

Mr Spellar said afterwards: "You have got the Hutton Report saying that police in uniform have to serve longer – and you have the Home Office forcing West Midlands Police to sack people early and paying them their pensions."

Bid over Crystal factory funds 'taking too long'

A PROJECT to create a new glass museum for Dudley will fall through if multi-million-pound European funding is not secured, council chiefs have warned.

It is hoped the planned scheme for the former Stuart Crystal glass works in Stourbridge will attract thousands of tourists.

A bid – thought to be worth up to £2.5 million – is being drawn up for half of the total costs ready for presentation to the European Regional Development Fund.

But Councillors say the application is taking too long to draw up. They point out

the scheme was first announced two years ago. The issue was discussed at a meeting of Dudley Council's regeneration, culture and adult education scrutiny committee.

Duncan Lowndes, assistant director for culture and leisure, told the meeting: "It's fair to say that if the ERDF bid is not successful we are in trouble."

"We would not be able to deliver the scheme without it."

He said the total cost of the project would be between £3m and £5m, and a bid for up to half of that would be made.

Mr Lowndes said the deadline for the bid was next summer. It is hoped some cash will also come from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The council is working on the plans with Complex Developments Ltd, which owns the former Stuart Crystal works, known as the White House Cone site.

Ideas put forward include an underground tunnel linking that site with the Red House Glass Cone over the road.

Details

But councillors said the process was moving too slowly.

Councillor David Caunt said: "There does not seem to have been much progress made in the last six months."

"I am wondering when we are actually going to get a final report with firm details of what will be done."

The Red House Glass Cone and the neighbouring Stuart Crystal shop were bought by the council for an undisclosed sum in October.

Committee chairman Ken Turner said he was concerned that costs would keep rising. He added: "This is a very exciting scheme but we don't want to end up with a huge bill for it."

Yobs throw stones at houses

YOBS are throwing stones at properties and being abusive in Tipton Green, police have said.

Residents in Dudley Port have complained about the behaviour to the neighbourhood police officers, who have stepped up patrols.

Youngsters are also congregating in the flats in Howard Street, and drinking and causing noise in Harrowby Drive. They are also causing a nuisance in Owen Street and throwing stones at buses.

Road petition signed by 370

A PETITION signed by nearly 400 residents calling for a "nightmare" one-way system in a Dudley road to be scrapped has been handed to councillors.

People say their lives have been "made hell" since the system started at Parkway Road earlier this year.

They say it is causing congestion with cars left at a standstill at peak times because of the volume of

traffic. The road was made one-way following complaints of it being used as a rat run. Protesters want to see the road restored to how it was before and say they were not told of the plans until it was too late.

Bill Chambers, aged 75, of nearby Fullbrook Road, presented the petition last week. It has been signed by 377 people.

Council officers said they would look into the matter.

Mad O'Rourke's pub bites back



Owners Sue and Pete Towler inside the Mad O'Rourke's Pie Factory

A POPULAR Black Country pub has reopened after it was bought back from administrators by its former owner.

The Mad O'Rourke's Pie Factory in Tipton has undergone a £30,000 revamp.

Pete Towler bought the property back from administrators PKF earlier this month under the name of P&S Pies Ltd, with his wife Sue as director. All 15 jobs have been secured.

"I am very pleased," said 51-year-old Mr Towler, from Tettenhall, Wolverhampton. "The past few months have been pretty stressful. We're hoping now to be able to get things back to the way they were."

The pub, in Hurst Lane, had been closed for three weeks before re-opening last week.

Meeting soon on schools U-turn

DISCUSSIONS over the Government's decision to scrap millions of pounds worth of school rebuilding projects in Sandwell are set to take place next month.

The borough had nine schemes worth £138 million cut. Sandwell and five other authorities launched legal action after Labour's Building Schools for the Future programme was axed last July.

The Sandwell cutbacks sparked an outcry from parents, pupils and school staff.

Last month the authority was successful in a High Court challenge and Education Secretary Michael Gove was urged to think again.

Visit

Now, council officers are compiling a case to present to the Government on what action should be taken in Sandwell with a meeting expected to be held with officials next month.

However, Sandwell's deputy leader and cabinet member for strategic resources, Councillor Steve Eling, said the authority is still calling for a personal visit from Mr Gove to meet schools affected by the cuts.

Councillor Eling said: "We are supposed to be having discussions in early April."

Schools losing out included Bristol Hall, Heathfields, Perryfields, Wood Green, Stuart Bathurst and Manor and Menzies. Special schools and pupil referral units also lost projects.

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the pulse



Enrique Iglesias

Euphoria for Enrique with concert date

SPAIN'S biggest pop star, Enrique Iglesias, is in concert at the LG Arena on Saturday, after releasing his ninth studio album, *Euphoria*, last summer.

The son of crooner Julio Iglesias and journalist Isabel Preysler, Madrid-born Enrique moved to Miami when still a child and kept his musical ambitions secret while studying business at university.

His debut album in 1995 sold half a million copies in the first week and instantly established him as a major star in the Spanish-speaking music world, from Madrid to Mexico City.

In 1999 he scored a No1 in the US singles chart with *Bailamos*. His first English language album, *Enrique*, confirmed his crossover success in the global pop market, particularly when *Be With You* became his second No1.

Iglesias went on to even greater success when his 2001 album *Escape* provided his most well known song, *Hero*, his first UK chart-topper.

He has gone on to release his greatest hits album, flirt with a movie career and has been in a relationship with tennis star Anna Kournikova for 10 years. No wonder he has experienced *Euphoria*.

McFly set to make a noise

MCFLY bring their *Above The Noise Tour* to the LG Arena on Wednesday, March 30. The power pop quartet's new EP *That's The Truth* is now available and fans going to their NEC concert can get all the latest information on the band from their relaunched Super City site at www.mcfly.com



Why Westlife feel like a real band once again

THE OFFICIAL biggest selling group of the past decade, Irish boy-turned-man band Westlife, are at the LG Arena tomorrow (Friday) for the Birmingham leg of their nine city UK arena tour.

Westlife are among the world's most prolific touring acts, with nine sell-out tours already under their belts, including playing to a full house at the legendary Croke Park in Dublin.

They have sold more tickets at London's Wembley Arena than any other act and have played a record number of dates there, an amazing 25.

No pop band can compare to Westlife's extraordinary success, having been certified as the biggest selling band of the past decade.

During their 11 years at the top of pop's hierarchy, the band have sold more than 43 million records globally. In the UK alone, they have scored ten multi-platinum albums and a record breaking 14 No.1 hits (behind only Elvis Presley and The Beatles).

The LG Arena show will include the four-some's biggest hits as well as tracks off their 2009 double platinum album *Where We Are* and their latest album, *Gravity*.

The quartet's eleventh offering, *Gravity*, released last November, sees the Irishmen sail



Westlife's Kian, Shane, Mark and Nicky are all smiles as they prepare for their concert at the LG Arena

into uncharted waters, wrestle an unprecedented level of creative control and most critically of all – start believing in themselves again.

"It's a really good album," insists Nicky Byrne. "It's one producer. It's one sound. Maybe it's taken us 12 years to get there. But it doesn't matter. We're here now."

"It's the kind of record we knew we could make and we just needed the right person to deliver it with us."

And that individual was legendary producer John Shanks. He steered Take That's past two

collections, was responsible for Bon Jovi's recent reinvention and sculpted some of Kelly Clarkson, Celine Dion and Sheryl Crow's most enduring hits.

Nicky recalls: "From day one John said, 'I'm not going to be ringing Shane up and saying I want him in on Wednesday lunchtime and Kian in on Friday morning.'"

"If I'm going to do this, we're all going to be in the studio together."

"That was the first time anyone had ever said that to us. He made us feel like a real band again."

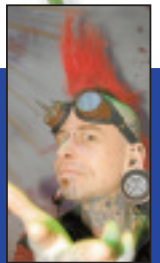


TV listings start – page 23

YOUR SIX-PAGE ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE AND WEEK'S TV VIEWING



Theatre and show round-up – page 22



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SATURDAY & SUNDAY	SATURDAY & SUNDAY
18:15 20:45	14:00 16:20
TURTLE'S TALE 3D (U) FLS	HALL PASS (15)
FRIDAY, MONDAY TO THURSDAY	ALL WEEK
16:00	20:50
SATURDAY & SUNDAY	PAUL (15)
10:50 12:40 14:30 16:20	ALL WEEK
THE EAGLE (12A) FLS	KIDS CLUB - SATURDAY & SUNDAY
ALL WEEK	YOUNG BLOOD (U)
15:40 18:10 20:40	11:50
GNOMEO AND JULIET 3D (U)	TANGLED (PG)
SATURDAY & SUNDAY	11:30
13:45	BIG MOMMA'S (PG)
PASTER (15) FLS	11:40
FRIDAY, MONDAY TO THURSDAY	
16:05 18:20 20:35	
SATURDAY & SUNDAY	
13:40 16:00 18:20 20:35	

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A Day to Remember

Share your good news by placing an announcement with a photograph of your Special Day in the

Express & Star

BIRCH Alan and Sandra were married on Saturday, March 13, 2011 at St Bartholomew's church, Wolverhampton. Thank you to everyone, you made our day so special

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the pulse



Rob Rouse

Stand up joy...

ROB Rouse has been on the edge of stardom for a while now. He was an original presenter of Channel 4's The Friday Night Project and has appeared on 8 Out of 10 Cats, Spoons and Grownups. However, stand-up is where he feels most at home. In May, he starts his second nationwide tour.

He said: "Touring is the best thing in the world. To have audiences coming to the gig just for you is a very special feeling."

Rob's Great Escape tour starts Wolverhampton Slade Rooms on May 10, tickets are £12.

... but Jim gets none

CONTROVERSIAL comedian Jim Davidson has axed his play, Stand Up and Be Counted, which was due to be performed in Wolverhampton, due to poor ticket sales.

It is the 57-year-old's first self-penned play, in which he stars as ageing comedian Eddie Pierce. It was due at the Grand Theatre from April 4 to 9.

Helpings of dinners and dance on show

THE CANTEEN colleagues are back for a Second Helping when Dinnerladies returns in a new play featuring Victoria Wood's comic caterers at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Monday to the following Saturday.

Andrew Dunn and Sue Devaney from the original TV sitcom star as Tony and Jane and are joined by the rest of the familiar characters at HWD Electronics' staff cafe.

Tonight (Thursday) the Lass That Loved A Sailor, better known as HMS Pinafore, Gilbert and Sullivan's comic opera will be brought to the Grand stage with lots of audacious British tars sailing the ocean blue in a production by Opera Della Luna.

The one-nighters at the Grand continue with That'll Be The Day's 25th anniversary rock 'n' roll show on Saturday and John Hylton's tribute to Neil Diamond, entitled Real Diamond, on Sunday.

Tutu totting

The Trocks are back with more amazing frocks and the perfect show for those who had their taste for ballet whetted by Ade Edmonson's recent dying swan in Let's Dance for Comic Relief. These tutu totting divas are in a whole different class, having picked up dance awards for their routines. Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo will be at Birmingham Hippodrome from Wednesday to the following Saturday. Meanwhile, The Blues Brothers musical continues at the Hurst Street venue to Saturday.

The topos Aussie comedienne Emma Powell and Bev Killick do have their knockers but the bosom buddies are playing to enthusiastic female audiences, and the occasional brave man, on their UK tour, which calls at Birmingham Hippodrome this Sunday and Stourbridge Town Hall on Saturday, April 2.

And sisters are doing it for themselves in The Naked Truth, a poignant and comic tale about women joining a pole-dancing class to keep fit.

The all-star female cast includes Leanne Jones, who starred in Hairspray in the West End, former Emmerdale villain Claire King, Maureen Nolan and ex-Liberty X singer Michelle Heaton.

It's on at Stoke's Regent Theatre this week (to Saturday) and then visits the New Alex in Birmingham on April 26 and 27.

Corriel, an affection tribute cramming 50 years of top soap Coronation Street into a couple of hours, continues at Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre with its final performances in the city on Saturday.

Nobody's Perfect presents the comedy World Of Pain,

Ready to rock... and shock

THE Circus of Horrors is coming to town and is ready to rock and shock its audience.

The circus is now in its 15th year and is back in the UK showcasing its Four Chapters from Hell tour, which stops at the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton on Friday, March 25.

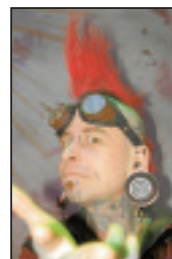
The self-styled rock-and-roll circus is promising a show like never before. Hannibal Helmutro, who is a performer with the Circus of Horrors, said: "It is very funny and fast paced, there is nothing like it in the world."

"Imagine if Quentin Tarantino had directed Cirque du Soleil and you'd only be halfway there."

Set in a French mental asylum, the show contains some of the most bizarre circus acts ever seen on stage. The cast of 26 perform stunts including dare-devil trapeze, sword swal-



The Trocks are back with more amazing frocks



Hannibal Helmutro

Rugeley writer Phil Preece's sequel to his House Of Pain, tomorrow (Friday) at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre.

Birmingham Rep, now on the road whilst its theatre is partly rebuilt, comes to the Arena on Monday with Lucy Caldwell's powerful new play about a dying child, Notes To Future Self. The play, the last directed for the Rep by outgoing artistic director Rachel Kavanaugh, won critical acclaim during its recent run in Birmingham.

Nostalgic humour

Crescent Theatre presents Tennessee Williams' steamy US Deep South drama Cat On A Hot Tin Roof at the theatre on Sheepcote Street in Birmingham to Saturday.

Midlands comics Don Maclean, Malcolm Stent and Dave Sealey team up for nostalgic humour in Back to Back at Dudley Concert Hall on Thursday, March 31.

King Lear, Romeo and Juliet and a puppet version of The Tempest are in the repertoire at the Royal Shakespeare Company's theatres in Stratford for the rest of this month.

lowing, knife throwers and whirlwind roller-skaters. The Circus of Horrors explores the past, present and future, as well as involving zombies, vampires and the undead. The show is a sideways look at the circus and Helmutro certainly offers that, by hypnotising people with his ears.

The German performer inserts special rotating discs into already elongated ears to engage his target.

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Monkey World Ape Rescue Centre

Two days departing June 11, Aug 13

★ PRICE FROM **£99.95***

- *£99.95 per child up to age of 15 sharing with an adult
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- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Monkey World Ape Rescue Centre
- Tour of the New Forest
- Visit to Lyndhurst
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Longleat Safari Park

Two days departing May 25, Aug 7, Oct 24

★ PRICE FROM **£109***

- *£79.95 per child aged 15 and under sharing with an adult
- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Passport ticket for Longleat Safari Park
- Visit to Bath
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Suffolk Coastal Villages and the Beth Chatto Gardens

Three days departing June 17

★ PRICE FROM **£149**

- Return coach travel
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- Visits to Lavenham, Southwold and Aldeburgh
- Entrance to the Beth Chatto Gardens
- Tour of Constable Country
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

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Three days Various departure dates

★ PRICE FROM **£119.95**

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the pulse

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Season 2 Thursdays at 9pm

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BBC2

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Channel 5

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SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE

BBC1, 7.10pm

Those who automatically change onto the dance floor whenever a strong beat appears will no doubt be taking part in the new run of this series, one of which seems to be about as much as different choreographed shows to hit our screens each year. Cat Deeley is back as host, joined by judges: Simon Cowell, Louis Reed, Arlene Phillips, and Nigel Lythgoe. This week sees the first round of auditions take place. All of the participants are hoping to make it through to Choreography Camp, with a partially deaf jazz dancer, a mother and daughter team, and a brilliant tap exponent particularly catching the eye.

7.00 Breakfast 9.00 Saturday Live 10.00 Raymond Blanc: Kitchen Secrets (R) 11.00 BBC News: Regional News 12.00 Formula 1: Australian Grand Prix Qualifying (R) 1.00 Cycling: 2011 The Boat Race 2011 Coverage of the 17th University Boat Race in London 1.30 BBC News: Regional News 1.50 Weather

9.00 All Star Top Vixens The final contestants return to compete for the title of Series Champion.

10.00 So You Think You Can Dance New series. Judges: Nigel Lythgoe, Arlene Phillips, Louis Reed, and Simon Cowell. Audition: thousands of hopefuls as they begin the search for the UK's next dance star.

10.15 The Musical Lottery Simon Cowell's quiz show, presented by Nick Knowles.

10.40 Comedy Jay tries to distract himself from his impending surgery.

11.00 BBC News 11.15 The News at Ten With Jason Manford and Michael McIntyre (R)

11.20 John Bishop's Britain Melanie C discusses sport (R)

11.30 The Asia Strategy & Elmer Simon Cowell's quiz show, presented by Nick Knowles.

11.40 The Football League Show Highlights of today's games in League One and League Two.

11.50 BBC News

9.00 CBeebies 9.00 CBBC 10.00 LifeLine (R) 10.10 Prosecco Antique Roadshow (R) 10.15 Diagnostic Murder (R) 10.15 Anatomy of a Murder (R) 10.30 Courtroom drama, starring James Stewart 10.35 Church of the Holy Spirit (R) 10.40 The Spice Trail (R) 10.45 Escape to the Country (R)

10.15 Play M From Horseshoe, Co Durham (R)

10.30 Duff's Army Mainwaring puts Fraser in charge (R)

10.40 Repentless Profile of comedy actor Frankie Howard (R)

10.50 The Story of Verity with Hilary Swank. Part two of two. The former BBC chairman investigates what happened to variety stars when the theatre closed down and they were forced to pursue careers in TV. Previously seen on BBC4.

11.00 Golden's Road By Royal Appointment. New series. The DJ puts together a group of young musicians.

11.10 The Bishop Gardiner battles with Protestant supporters in the royal court.

11.20 House of Lords Grace attends her first session with the psychiatrist.

11.30 Paul Slabbert's Q&A Comedy show, with Lee Mack and Miranda Hart (R)

11.40 ICC Cricket World Cup Highlights The fourth quarter-final.

11.50 Film: Man About Dog (2004) Comedy, starring Allen Leech 11.55 (BST) Close

9.00 CITV Mini CITV 10.00 CITV 10.10 CITV 10.15 CITV 10.20 CITV 10.25 CITV 10.30 CITV 10.35 CITV 10.40 CITV 10.45 CITV 10.50 CITV 10.55 CITV 11.00 CITV 11.05 CITV 11.10 CITV 11.15 CITV 11.20 CITV 11.25 CITV 11.30 CITV 11.35 CITV 11.40 CITV 11.45 CITV 11.50 CITV 11.55 CITV 12.00 CITV 12.05 CITV 12.10 CITV 12.15 CITV 12.20 CITV 12.25 CITV 12.30 CITV 12.35 CITV 12.40 CITV 12.45 CITV 12.50 CITV 12.55 CITV 13.00 CITV 13.05 CITV 13.10 CITV 13.15 CITV 13.20 CITV 13.25 CITV 13.30 CITV 13.35 CITV 13.40 CITV 13.45 CITV 13.50 CITV 13.55 CITV 14.00 CITV 14.05 CITV 14.10 CITV 14.15 CITV 14.20 CITV 14.25 CITV 14.30 CITV 14.35 CITV 14.40 CITV 14.45 CITV 14.50 CITV 14.55 CITV 15.00 CITV 15.05 CITV 15.10 CITV 15.15 CITV 15.20 CITV 15.25 CITV 15.30 CITV 15.35 CITV 15.40 CITV 15.45 CITV 15.50 CITV 15.55 CITV 16.00 CITV 16.05 CITV 16.10 CITV 16.15 CITV 16.20 CITV 16.25 CITV 16.30 CITV 16.35 CITV 16.40 CITV 16.45 CITV 16.50 CITV 16.55 CITV 17.00 CITV 17.05 CITV 17.10 CITV 17.15 CITV 17.20 CITV 17.25 CITV 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Sunday TV



Season 2 Thursdays at 9pm

Syfy

Sky / HD 114 VirginTV 135 / HD 165 TalkTalk 22

Choice



IMAGINE: THE TROUBLE WITH TOLSTOY

BBC1, 10.25pm

Mention Leo Tolstoy's work, and chances are you'll be greeted by a sharp intake of breath from those who've never read anything by him. Tolstoy is widely regarded as penning sprawling, often complicated and difficult to follow novels, such as *War and Peace*. Here, Alan Yentob aims to find out more about Tolstoy, by embarking on an epic train journey through Russia, visiting some of the places important to the writer. Yentob has also had access to Tolstoy's diaries, which help him paint a portrait of an undoubtedly extraordinary if difficult human being.

BBC1

9.00 Formula 1: The Australian Grand Prix Live. The opening round of the season (Starting 7.00am). **9.00 The Andrew Marr Show.** **9.30 The Big Questions.** **10.00 Country Radio.** **10.00 The Politics Show.** **10.00 Formula 1: The Australian Grand Prix (F).** **10.30 EastEnders.** **10.30 Songs of Praise.** **10.30 BBC News.** **Regional News.**

Regional Programmes

9.00 A Round of TV: The Super League Show. Including highlights of Wigan Warriors v Warrington Wolves.

9.20 The Best of the Year. **9.30 The Best of the Year.** **9.40 The Best of the Year.** **9.50 The Best of the Year.**

10.00 The Best of the Year. **10.10 The Best of the Year.** **10.20 The Best of the Year.** **10.30 The Best of the Year.**

10.40 The Best of the Year. **10.50 The Best of the Year.** **11.00 The Best of the Year.** **11.10 The Best of the Year.**

11.20 The Best of the Year. **11.30 The Best of the Year.** **11.40 The Best of the Year.** **11.50 The Best of the Year.**

12.00 The Best of the Year. **12.10 The Best of the Year.** **12.20 The Best of the Year.** **12.30 The Best of the Year.**

12.40 The Best of the Year. **12.50 The Best of the Year.** **1.00 The Best of the Year.** **1.10 The Best of the Year.**

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2.00 The Best of the Year. **2.10 The Best of the Year.** **2.20 The Best of the Year.** **2.30 The Best of the Year.**

2.40 The Best of the Year. **2.50 The Best of the Year.** **3.00 The Best of the Year.** **3.10 The Best of the Year.**

BBC2

9.00 CBeebies. **9.30 CBBC.** **10.00 Something for the Week.** **10.30 The Big Questions.** **10.40 The Big Questions.** **10.50 The Big Questions.**

11.00 The Big Questions. **11.10 The Big Questions.** **11.20 The Big Questions.** **11.30 The Big Questions.**

11.40 The Big Questions. **11.50 The Big Questions.** **12.00 The Big Questions.** **12.10 The Big Questions.**

12.20 The Big Questions. **12.30 The Big Questions.** **12.40 The Big Questions.** **12.50 The Big Questions.**

1.00 The Big Questions. **1.10 The Big Questions.** **1.20 The Big Questions.** **1.30 The Big Questions.**

1.40 The Big Questions. **1.50 The Big Questions.** **2.00 The Big Questions.** **2.10 The Big Questions.**

2.20 The Big Questions. **2.30 The Big Questions.** **2.40 The Big Questions.** **2.50 The Big Questions.**

3.00 The Big Questions. **3.10 The Big Questions.** **3.20 The Big Questions.** **3.30 The Big Questions.**

3.40 The Big Questions. **3.50 The Big Questions.** **4.00 The Big Questions.** **4.10 The Big Questions.**

4.20 The Big Questions. **4.30 The Big Questions.** **4.40 The Big Questions.** **4.50 The Big Questions.**

5.00 The Big Questions. **5.10 The Big Questions.** **5.20 The Big Questions.** **5.30 The Big Questions.**

TV1

9.00 CTV: Mini CTV. **9.30 CTV: Mini CTV.** **10.00 CTV: Mini CTV.** **10.30 CTV: Mini CTV.**

11.00 CTV: Mini CTV. **11.30 CTV: Mini CTV.** **12.00 CTV: Mini CTV.** **12.30 CTV: Mini CTV.**

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2.00 CTV: Mini CTV. **2.10 CTV: Mini CTV.** **2.20 CTV: Mini CTV.** **2.30 CTV: Mini CTV.**

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6.00 CTV: Mini CTV. **6.10 CTV: Mini CTV.** **6.20 CTV: Mini CTV.** **6.30 CTV: Mini CTV.**

Channel 4

9.00 The Hobbit. **9.30 The Hobbit.** **10.00 The Hobbit.** **10.30 The Hobbit.**

11.00 The Hobbit. **11.30 The Hobbit.** **12.00 The Hobbit.** **12.30 The Hobbit.**

12.40 The Hobbit. **12.50 The Hobbit.** **1.00 The Hobbit.** **1.10 The Hobbit.**

1.20 The Hobbit. **1.30 The Hobbit.** **1.40 The Hobbit.** **1.50 The Hobbit.**

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6.00 The Hobbit. **6.10 The Hobbit.** **6.20 The Hobbit.** **6.30 The Hobbit.**

Channel 5

9.00 The Hobbit. **9.30 The Hobbit.** **10.00 The Hobbit.** **10.30 The Hobbit.**

11.00 The Hobbit. **11.30 The Hobbit.** **12.00 The Hobbit.** **12.30 The Hobbit.**

12.40 The Hobbit. **12.50 The Hobbit.** **1.00 The Hobbit.** **1.10 The Hobbit.**

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6.00 The Hobbit. **6.10 The Hobbit.** **6.20 The Hobbit.** **6.30 The Hobbit.**

PLEASE NOTE: prices are per person unless otherwise stated and travel insurance is not included in the price. Coach pick-up points offered (excluding air, Eurostar breaks plus certain cruises) are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton. Call (01902) 319999 (Monday-Friday, 9am to 5pm) or email starextra@expressandstar.co.uk (please include your name and address).

Please read brochures/web pages for full description plus terms/conditions. Dates subject to availability.



The Battlefields of World War One

Four days departing Jun 10 and Oct 7

★ PRICE FROM **£199.95**

- Return coach travel
- Return Channel crossings
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Visits to the Somme and Ypres Salient
- Entrance to the Historical de la Grande Guerre museum
- Entrance to the In Flanders Field museum
- Visit to the Menin Gate
- Services of a guide and tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

London by rail

Three days
Various departure dates★ PRICE FROM **£119.95**

- Return standard class rail travel (first class offered for a supplement)
- Two nights bed and breakfast accommodation at a choice of four-star London hotels
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

Longleat Safari Park

Two days departing May 25, Aug 7, Oct 24

★ PRICE FROM **£109***

- * £79.95 per child aged 15 and under sharing with an adult
- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Passport ticket for Longleat Safari Park
- Visit to Bath
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Suffolk Coastal Villages and the Beth Chatto Gardens

Three days departing June 17

★ PRICE FROM **£149**

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Visits to Lavenham, Southwold and Aldeburgh
- Entrance to the Beth Chatto Gardens
- Tour of Constable Country
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Spalding Flower Parade and Barnsdale Gardens

Two days departing April 30

★ PRICE FROM **£99.95**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to Spalding Flower Festival
- Entrance to Geoff Hamilton's Barnsdale Gardens
- Visit to Stamford
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Monkey World Ape Rescue Centre

Two days departing June 11, Aug 13

★ PRICE FROM **£99.95***

- * £69.95 per child up to age of 15 sharing with an adult
- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Monkey World Ape Rescue Centre
- Tour of the New Forest
- Visit to Lyndhurst
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Beamish, Whitby and the North Yorks Moor Railway

Four days departing May 13, Jul 22, Oct 7

★ PRICE FROM **£229**

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Entrance to the Beamish - The Living Museum of the North
- A ride on the North Yorks Moor Railway
- Visits to Whitby, Harrogate and Richmond
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

[illegible]

Is Your Old Suite Looking a little tired and worn???



FULL RE-UPHOLSTERY SERVICE

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- Prompt Efficient Service • Discount for OAP's

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01384 892018

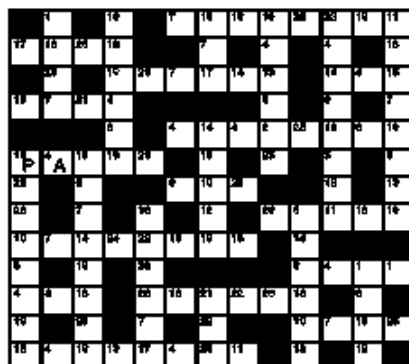



Brain Gym

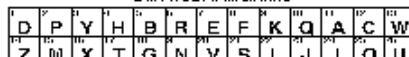
No.109

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



SEVEN GREAT GAMES IN ONE!

SEARCH: DAILY EXPRESS PUZZLES



OUT NOW!

ALL YOUR PUZZLE NEEDS
IN ONE HANDY APP!

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Not to agree to a full distribution (4,3)
- Point inside what must be grain (6)
- It's a bit of a grind obtaining this meal (6)
- Cuts down visibility on the main routes (3,4)
- Not a natural response (6,6)
- While responsible is needed, up plenty (5,2,6)
- I told out a small pair on tender (7)
- By by night (6)
- Comes closer in linear size (6)
- Possibly it's too damn awkward for most sailors (7)

Down

- Not late, but nearly last a point (6)
- I'm up in the field? (6)
- It's used to make one land at port (3)
- Pronounced and ranked (6)
- They have to exert some pull to make headway (7)
- Obtain a method of escape (3,4)
- Go on! Take legal action! (7)
- It keeps blades in order (7)
- Not well employed by a company? (6)
- Earth reduced to dust? (6)
- A ghastly colour? (6)
- A lower stock unit (3)

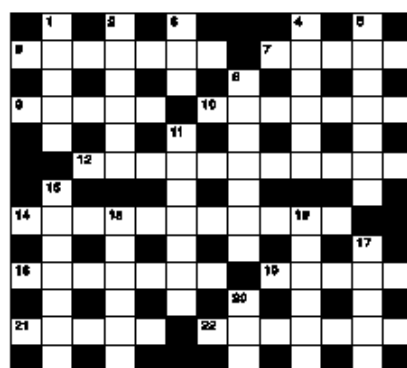
Quick Clues:

Across

- Utter (7)
- Embarked corpse (6)
- Swift (6)
- Intricate (7)
- Vengeance (11)
- Result (11)
- Crimes (7)
- Below (6)
- Angry (6)
- Settle (7)

Down

- Sum (6)
- bit (6)
- Curve (3)
- Prose's plot (6)
- Savagery (7)
- Shoe member (7)
- Low game (7)
- Described (7)
- Scabbed (6)
- Amid (6)
- Line (6)
- Crime (6)

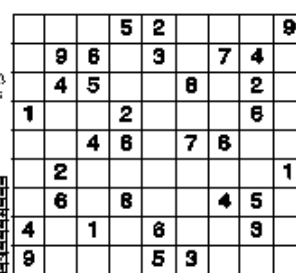


LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

CRYPTIC - Across: 1. Punctured, 2. Pines, 3. Puffed, 4. Puffed, 5. Puffed, 6. Puffed, 7. Puffed, 8. Puffed, 9. Puffed, 10. Puffed, 11. Puffed, 12. Puffed, 13. Puffed, 14. Puffed, 15. Puffed, 16. Puffed, 17. Puffed, 18. Puffed, 19. Puffed, 20. Puffed, 21. Puffed, 22. Puffed, 23. Puffed, 24. Puffed, 25. Puffed, 26. Puffed. Down: 1. Puffed, 2. Puffed, 3. Puffed, 4. Puffed, 5. Puffed, 6. Puffed, 7. Puffed, 8. Puffed, 9. Puffed, 10. Puffed, 11. Puffed, 12. Puffed, 13. Puffed, 14. Puffed, 15. Puffed, 16. Puffed, 17. Puffed, 18. Puffed, 19. Puffed, 20. Puffed, 21. Puffed, 22. Puffed, 23. Puffed, 24. Puffed, 25. Puffed, 26. Puffed.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.



Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the five words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



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HANDY APP!



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CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS
QUICK CROSSWORDS
CODWORD SUDOKU
WORD PUZZLER
WORD SEARCH
NUMBER CRUNCH

SEARCH: DAILY EXPRESS PUZZLES
On the iPhone, iPod Touch & iPad

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ITINERARY

FRIDAY

Departing from around 5pm, we travel to our Holiday Inn Hotel.

SATURDAY

Take English Breakfast at leisure before we depart to Holmfirth. Here you will see Nora Batty's House and Sid's Café, familiar scenes from 'Last of the Summer Wine'.

We then travel to visit 'The Woolpack' and the village featured in the old 'Emmerdale' series.

From here we visit the original Harry Ramsden's Fish and Chip Shop - Lunch included!

We continue to the excellent Bradford Industrial Museum. Here you can see the Bradford transport collection, original Mill and working Horses.

We return to our Holiday Inn Hotel, where tonight you can wine and dine as we include Dinner with Choice Menu.

SUNDAY

After Breakfast, we make our way over the Moors to the world famous village of Haworth.

This is the home of the Brontë family, whose novels included Wuthering Heights, Jane Eyre and The Tenant of Wildfell Hall.

You can visit the Brontë Parsonage, or take Lunch at one of the Public Houses before we join the Keighley and Worth Valley Steam Railway for a journey to Keighley. This railway was featured in the films 'The Railway Children', 'Yanki', 'Sherlock Holmes' and of course 'Last of the Summer Wine'.

From Keighley, our Coach returns to the West Midlands.

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Motoring editor **Peter Carroll** drives the new car which aims to put a famous Midlands marque back on the motoring map

MG that's out to show '6' appeal

WHEN the gates of Longbridge closed shut in 2005, with the loss of 6,000 jobs, many must have thought that the death-knell had sounded for one of Britain's most famous car brands.

But six years down the line MG is still with us, albeit under Chinese ownership, and has just launched its long-awaited, first all-new car for 16 years.

The MG6 arrives in final production form as a family-sized five-seater hatchback with coupe-influenced styling and high levels of equipment across its three trim levels.

Prices range from £15,495 for the entry level S to £18,995 for the flagship TSE – a car that is packed with such premium features as leather seats, climate control air conditioning, satellite navigation and a reversing camera, all as standard.

This makes the 6 cheaper to buy than similarly-specified rivals such as the Skoda Octavia or Ford Focus. The MG is also more spacious inside.

But perhaps the biggest surprise is that MG has delivered, as promised, a real driver's car with

sure-footed handling and a surprisingly sporty feel.

With its heavily-raked roofline and narrow windows the MG6 is very much a contemporary vehicle, with few 'retro' touches. I suspect its looks will grow on people. Saloon variants will arrive in the summer.

Inside, cabin quality is higher than that of the pre-production car I drove last year with an improved soft-touch dashboard, along with touches of chrome and carbon-fibre-style trim.

Badge

The famous octagonal badge is present and correct on the steering wheel but the overall interior look is slightly anonymous and the plastics are harder and cheaper the lower down you go.

The seats in the TSE are comfortable but on the soft side and lacking both lateral and under-thigh support. Leg room is generous but taller drivers may struggle for headroom.

The designer handbrake is similar to the Saab 9-3's 'thumb-trapper' and a little awkward to operate.

There's only one power plant at the moment – a turbocharged 1.8 litre petrol developing 160hp. A 1.9 litre diesel is in development but won't be ready until next year. The petrol is only going to give



Peter Carroll about to drive the first all new MG6 since the launch of the MGF roadster in 1995

you 30-35mpg but it sounds peppy and revs freely to above 6,000rpm.

The MG has only five, rather long gears, but can hit 60mph in around eight and a half seconds. The car's top speed has been limited to 120mph in order to keep insurance costs down.

While the 6 is designed first and foremost as a family car it's also possible to have some fun in

it. The chassis feels rigid and taut and the car is stable and assured at speed. Provided you keep the revs up, it loves attacking twisty B-roads. There's masses of grip and very little roll. The steering has been set up to be considerably sharper and weightier than in the Chinese version of the car.

Ride quality is firm but comfortable and refinement levels are high, though you certainly hear

the engine if you put your foot down.

The car's interior could still be improved and its relatively high CO2 emissions of 184g/km mean it will not find favour with fleet buyers.

With no diesel in the range the MG6 is still a work in progress, at least as regards the European market, but at least it is off to a promising start.



The MG6 handles well on the road and is composed at speed



Close-up of the handbrake



The MG6's cabin has been improved

FACT FILE

MG6

Models: MG6: S £15,495, SE £16,995, TSE £18,995

Engine: 1,796cc, four cylinders, turbo-charged petrol

Power: 160hp

Transmission: Five-speed manual, front wheel drive

Performance: 0-62mph in 8.9 seconds

Top speed: 120mph

Economy: 35.6mpg on combined cycle

CO2 emissions: 161g/km

Length: 4,651mm

Kerb weight: 1,485kg

Insurance group: 13-14/50

Warranty: Three years/60,000 miles

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Plenty of zest in Smart's new Nightorange edition



Smart's vibrant Fortwo Nightrange is sure to be one of the most refreshing sights on UK roads this spring

THE latest limited edition Smart is certain to brighten the lives of drivers with its vibrant styling, zesty performance and an impressive specification.

Offering a huge splash of colour and sporty style, the striking Smart Fortwo Nightrange edition is aiming to be the most refreshing sight on Britain's roads this spring.

With its vivid orange paintwork, contrasting black three-double-spoke 15-inch alloy wheels, Tridion safety cell, door mirror caps and radiator grille, the new model will definitely stand out from the city car crowd.

Its eye-catching exterior is further enhanced by headlamps with titanium-coloured inserts and Nightrange badging on the door mirror triangles.

Inside, occupants can sit back and enjoy the ride in sumptuous soft black nappa leather and fabric seats.

A reminder of the Smart's colourful character is provided by the orange stitching and sport stripes on the seats and dashboard.

There is a black nappa leather finish to the three-spoke steering wheel and the gear knob for the soft touch five-speed automatic transmission, whilst the dashboard, door trims, cockpit clock and rev counter are all in elegant matt black.

Choice

Velour floor mats featuring the Nightrange logo add the perfect finishing touch.

Only 235 Smart Fortwo Nightrange edition models will be available for purchase in coupe or cabrio form from UK Smart

retailers. Both the models will be available with a choice of 999cc petrol engines – the 71bhp micro hybrid drive, which returns an impressive 65.7mpg (combined) or a 84bhp turbo.

Gary Savage, managing director, Mercedes-Benz Cars, said: "The Smart Fortwo Nightrange edition is a real head-turner and a car that will truly light up the lives of owners with its stunning on-road presence and low running costs."

"Like the rest of the Smart range, this latest special edition's green credentials stand out too – the new model emits less than 120g/km of CO2 so is exempt from the cost of the annual road fund licence for at least the first year from registration."

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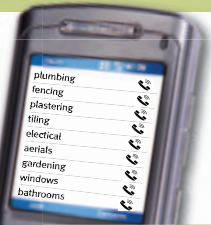
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US PING 12 3 sand wedge, also 10 odd woods, Hillbilly trolley, £235 one. 01902 735180.

wedding bells

ABBEY GTH VOGUE 517
2005, 5-berth, excellent condition, complete with Dorema awning, motor mover, aqua roll.
£2,250 one.
01384 824488.

car hire

ABBEY LINCOLN County, 1995, 18ft, two berth, many extras, immaculate condition, £2,000 one. 0121 530 4607.
ABI AWARD NORTHSTAR 1997
End bathroom, 4 berth, 19ft, full awning, blow heating, fly blinds, cooker, fridge, many extras.
£2,650 one.
07765 719369.

leisure

ABI JUBILEE, 1998, 18ft, 4-berth, HC, cassette toilet, flyscreen, awning, good condition, £2,000. 07770 294892.
ABI POLARIS 2005
36 x 12ft, 3 bedroom, sited close to beach at Morfa Bychan, Porthmadog.
£15,600.
Including 2011 site fees.
01902 372101.

boats & water sports

AMERICAN RV MONACO MONARCH
30ft, 2009, full slide, 11,800 miles, fully serviced, tax 2012, total luxury, every facility, just perfect.
£85,000 one.
07968 805504.

camping

AVONDALE 1997, 4 berth, end washroom, full awning, lovely condition, 22ft long, must be seen. £2,500 one. 01922 276064.
AVONDALE ARGENTE 390 2-berth, 2005, end kitchen, shower, toilet, awning very good condition. £5,300. 01984 850544.
BAILEY RANGER 460/2 2005, Truma motor mover, immaculate. £5,300. 07974 311116.

car boot sales

SUPER SATURDAY BOOT SALE
10am-2pm. Bigger Field Barracks Lane off A461 and A5 Walsall Wood, between Walsall and Lichfield
WS9 9DL
BEST SATURDAY BOOT SALE
8am-2pm. A454 Rudge Heath, By Royal Oak Pub Island between WYOM
Bridgton W6 7EE

BEST SUNDAY BOOT SALE
10am-2pm. Every Sunday. Cocksparrow Lane, off A34, Huntingdon, Cambs.
WS12 4PB
BEST WEDNESDAY BOOT SALE
10am-2pm on bigger field. Ivyhouse Farm A461, Muckley Corner between Walsall and Lichfield WS14 0BX
Enquiries 07880 267041

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A BEAUTIFUL PARK nr Ludlow 35 x 12 ft caravans from £30.00, why go further, 01584 823433

ELDDIS CROWN

1998, five berth, includes full awning, cassette toilet, shower, h/c, fridge, cooker, heater, good condition, wheel clamp included.
£2,800 one.
07793 968301.

ELDDIS OYSTER

4 berth, motor, stabiliser, privacy glass, security, CRIS reg. 07890 471022

ESTEREL

CARAMEATIC 4 berth folding caravan, 2 double beds, new upholstery, good condition. £4,200. 07743 003494.

FIAT DUCATO

20th anniv. 2 campervan, 26th, all amenities, 12 months tax, offers around £4,500. 07843 199618 (after 5pm).

LUNA STELLA 2003

with motor mover, excellent condition in and out, end kitchen, shower, toilet compartment, hot/cold water, full awning, everything you need to go. £7,200.
07570 925119.

MERCEDES MOTORHOMER

low miles, 4 berth, new MoT, B reg, old but excellent, £6,500. 07951 294861.

STATIC CARAVAN

2 bed, DG, CH, located on spacious plot with great views, Mid Wales inland park. Site fees including, no age requirement. Free fishing, WiFi.
£15,495
07971 734329.

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2 bed, DG, CH, located on spacious plot with great views, Mid Wales inland park. Site fees including, no age requirement. Free fishing, WiFi.
£15,495
07971 734329.

STATIC CARAVAN

8 berth, with veranda, at Glan-y-Mor, Clarach Bay, 2011 site fees included, double glazed, CH, sea views.
£18,000.
01957 850979.

STATIC CARAVAN

ATLAS RUBY SUPER 2003, 6th, 2 bedrooms, sited on Brynmor Holiday Park, North, with outstanding views and private decking.
£19,950.
07912 347400.

STERLING EXCEL 480

June 2010, Special Edition. 2nd, end bathroom, full warranties, many extras including Power touch super mover. Ready to go. Illness forces quick sale.
£12,800 one. 01691 831432.

SWIFT CORNICHE 13/2

1997, excellent condition, 2-berth, full awning plus many extras. £2,435 one. 07892 567525.

SWIFT CORNICHE 17/3

3 berth Caravan, 2002, choice of awnings, a/c, not much use.
£5,850 one.
Telephone 01939 210645 or 07836 609504.

WILLERBY GRANADA

Static caravan, 2009, 38 x 12, 2-bed, DG, CH, immaculate, sited Newtown, Puxys, steps and two lockers. 2011 site fees included. Open 10% months.
£25,500
07853 732177.

equestrian corner

BAY FILLY

British riding pony, rising 3, 12.2hh, very pretty show pony, part bred Welsh/Arab, full of character, loves attention, good to lead/traffic, farrier, vaccinated, wormed and microchipped. Must go to experienced, loving home.
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07968 760403.

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15.2HH, nine years old, good temperament, hacks out alone or in company, being ridden by 11 year old girl.
£1,200 including rugs.
Good home main priority.
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WANTED

safe family hack, sound and bombproof, 14.3 - 15.3hh, 10 years plus. Five star home waiting. 07882 984731.

13.2HH BRIGHT

bay mare, Welsh cross, 8 yrs old, 100% genuine, no vices, very bold jump, comp with tack. £2,200 one. 07813 805227.

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LOST NOn Wednesday, 16 March, a fawn and black Pug on Sneyd Lane, New Invention. Reward for safe return. 01922 400655

MISSING

from Bradley since March 5, small tabby female cat with white chest, possibly injured. 01902 650486

personal

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Very genuine man, not in to playing games, looking for a special lady who is fun to be with, happy and spontaneous, tactile, romantic, must have GSOH. Age 48-58, photo appreciated/returned.
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Return coach, overnight half-board, entrance to Monkey World, tour of the New Forest and visit to Lyndhurst, Suffolk Coastal Villages
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Longleaf Safari Park

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Various dates, from £119.95
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Niko Strling 4-15.30, 7 months old, excellent condition, receipts, bag £340.
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AIR ARMS TX200HC 1.77, latest model, brand new, boxed £220.
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A AND B GRADE TURF £1.10 & £1.05 a ton, laying service. Top soil, 0800 085 5277/07886 359677.

GARDEN ROTTING. Very good condition, £120 ono.
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Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a puppy farmer.

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.

2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.

3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.

Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

A SELECTION OF KOI at various sizes up to 2ft long. Genuine silvers, 01784 692433.

BEAUTIFUL show type Cocker Spaniel Puppies, vet checked, wormed, Read, full pedigree. £425. 07921 64720.

BORDER COLLIE Puppies, 9 weeks old, vet checked, £100 each. 01252 672601.

CARKIE PUPPIES designer breed, four girls, three boys, read, low Cairn Mother, Yorkshire Father, both can be seen, both pedigree, non mauling nature, lovely temperament, very playful, great family pet, regularly wormed, front lined, paper trained. £275. 01783 620222.

CARKIE PUPPIES designer breed, four girls, three boys, read, low Cairn Mother, Yorkshire Father, both can be seen, both pedigree, non mauling nature, lovely temperament, very playful, great family pet, regularly wormed, front lined, paper trained. £275. 01783 620222.

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TWO BEARDED DRAGONS for sale, 12 months old, male and female, 9in in length, very friendly, don't bite. Plus pine 4ft x 20ins x 20ins tank, accessories and fittings.
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WANTED AVIARY birds for large private aviary. Also Pigeons and Poultry for beginners and Parrot for house pet. 07970 485491.

WANTED LESSER RED POLLS Silver Cocker, Cocker, Isobel Cocker. Cash waiting, will collect after 5pm. 07838 688859.

WHITE GERMAN Shepherd, bitch, pedigree, 8 months old, with free bed £120. 07890 384165.

what's on

rock 'n roll

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FORD FIESTA 1.4 Zetec, Climate, 05 reg, 3 door, red, 1 owner, only 25,100 miles, excellent condition, 1 years MoT, 6 months tax, £2,350.
01562 510291.

FORD MONDEO 2.0 FOCUS Zetec, diesel, 57 plate, new model, grey, excellent condition, £5,500, 07813 313220.

HONDA CIVIC 1.6 VTEC Sport 55 plate, silver, ABS, AC, Taxed and MoT, 40,000 miles, £5,250, o.n.o. 07584 410733.

HONDA CIVIC TYPE R GT, 07 reg, dual climate, new model, grey, tax/MoT, 22k, company car forces sale, £9,500, 07765 266636.

KIA SEDONA, L silver, 06, air con, Kia Service History, overmats, 113k, most motorway miles, very clean condition, nice to drive, £3,950 o.n.o.
01902 651510 or 07866 724335.

LAND ROVER DISCOVERY TDS X5 7 seats, Y reg(01), 154k miles, MoT, 12 months, long MoT, new fuel system, in good condition. £4,150 ono.
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MAZDA RX8 (MOT MODEL) 2004, silver/black leather, electric front seats, Mazda fsh, just serviced, 1 owner, 29,100 miles, MoT 2012, tax, very clean throughout. £4,250.
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MERCEDES A170L ELEGANCE 2002, 70k, metallic green, abs, e/m, air, alarm, MoT, diesel, tax, alloys, CD, Warranty, low price.
£2,850 ono.
07971 477106.

MERCEDES CLK 230K September 2001 reg, 3dr, 10 months Tax, 10 months MoT, £5,750. Telephone 01922 685052.

MINI COOPER S 2004 Electric sky blue, Tax May, MoT Sept, 40,000 miles, multi CD, climate control. Excellent condition. £5,995 o.n.o.
01384 278930.

NISSAN ALMERA TINO SE 1.8 petrol, 52 reg, tax/MoT full year, 2012. £2,350. 0759 254472.

PEUGEOT 206LX 1.9 diesel, alloys, air conditioning, 12 months MoT, £1,600 ono. 07595 505636.

PEUGEOT 307 1.6 GLX, 51 reg, 67k miles, 2 owners, good condition. AC, 5dr, Ew, tax and MoT and June, £1,750 ono. 07963 725063.

PEUGEOT 307 1.4 Estate, silver, 05 reg, one years MoT, nice car, £1,995.
01902 732590.

SEAT LEON SXI 600, 53 reg, 88k, petrol, manual, MoT February 2012, 6 months tax, £2,395, very good condition. £2,600 ono. 07929 852979.

SMART PASSION 52 reg, Soft touch 99cc, 2dr, leather, AC, low miles, tax, MoT, £2,900 ono. 01902 769797/07710 022891.

SUBARU LEGACY, 2001, above average condition, tax, above average, 1 owner, fsh, £2,600 ono. 01384 621507/0733 696469.

TOYOTA COROLLA T Sport, 2002, tax, long MoT, full black leathers, air con, front spots, good condition. £1,800. 01952 410603.

TOYOTA YARIS 2002, 129cc, 2007, 15,000 miles, 3dr, silver fsh, very good condition, £3,250. 01902 842097 or 07718 736202.

TOYOTA MR2 VVTi, 06 plate, 11,000 miles, excellent condition, £7,250. 01952 735163.

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TOYOTA MR2 VVTi, 06 plate, 11,000 miles, excellent condition, £7,250. 01952

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WE DELIVER • WE INSTALL • WE CARE

BEKO DRYERS



- 6/7kg load
- Reverse Action

**3 YEAR
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STAR BUY
VENTED £169
CONDENSER SENSOR DRY £229

HOTPOINT DRYER REVERSE ACTION



- Top bottle (condenser)
- 3kg / 7kg / 8kg

**3 YEAR
GUARANTEE**

STAR BUY
3KG VENTED £149
VENTED £189
CONDENSER £245

ZANUSSI WASHER



- 1400 Spin
- 6kg Load
- A Energy
- Super Quickwash

**3 YEAR
GUARANTEE**

STAR BUY
£329

BOSCH WASHER



- 1400 Spin
- 5.5kg Load
- A Energy

**2 YEAR
GUARANTEE**

STAR BUY
£299

WHIRLPOOL REFRIGERATION



- Under Counter
- 55cm Wide
- A Rated

**3 YEAR
GUARANTEE**

LARGER FRIDGE
£189
FREEZER
£199

WHIRLPOOL DISHWASHER



- 12 Place
- AAA Rated
- Quickwash

**3 YEAR
GUARANTEE**

STAR BUY
BUILT IN
£325
SALE PRICE
FREESTANDING
£249

HOTPOINT WASHER



- 1400 Spin Speed
- 7kg Load
- Ideal Family Size
- A Energy

**3 YEAR
GUARANTEE**

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HIGH FLIERS ARE JUST TOO MUCH

Hednesford Town 4 Halesowen Town 2

A FINE comeback from Halesowen was ruined by two late goals as high-flying Hednesford edged an exciting contest at Keys Park.

The Yeltz came from two goals down to level things up at 2-2 before title dark horses Hednesford extended their impressive league sequence to 12 wins in 13 on Tuesday.

The hosts started confidently and Cheyenne Dunkley headed a second minute corner just over the bar, *writes David Johnson.*

Just two minutes later the Pitmen took the lead when Liam Francis got the decisive touch on a fiercely-driven Darren Campion free kick.

It looked like being a long night for the Yeltz when Campion doubled Hednesford's lead soon after with a sweeping 20-yard shot. It was nearly 3-0 when Kyle Patterson nodded a Chris Clements corner against the bar after 30 minutes.

But Halesowen weathered the early storm and came back strongly towards half time, pulling a goal back through Mark Smith who nodded home Adam Robinson's left-wing cross.

Inspired goalie saves the day

Bashley 0 Halesowen Town 0
HALESOWEN lifted themselves off the bottom of the Zamaretto Premier table with a hard-earned point.

A series of top-class saves from goalkeeper Louis Connor preserved the clean sheet before the Yeltz missed a golden opportunity to complete a "smash and grab" raid when Bashley goal-keeper David Elm saved a last-minute penalty.

Bashley dominated but Connor repelled all their efforts in Halesowen's defiant backs-to-the-wall defending.

He palmed away Mark Gamble's 12th-minute header and tipped Dave Allen's dipping volley from over the bar five minutes later.

From the corner the over-worked Connor turned Luke Whitley's

powerful header onto the bar and the loose ball was scrambled clear.

Chris Knowles saw a 27th-minute header cleared off the line and Ryan Murray's far-post header rebounded off the post two minutes later.

Gamble again forced a fine save from Connor when clear on goal late in the first half.

Shaun Cunningham's troops carried more threat after the break with Rory Curtis blasting over the bar but it was Connor who then made two further excellent saves to deny dangerous German Gamble.

Bash came close to an elusive winner when two efforts from Allen were kept out by more last-ditch defending and, with three minutes remaining, Ian Oliver's drive was parried to safety by Connor.

Leaders inflict beating on luckless Sports

SPORTS suffered a heavy beating at the hands of the West Midlands Premier League leaders.

The game was only two minutes old when Wulfs took the lead.

Joe Williams returned a ball into the Dudley area and James Skedgel steered it past the keeper from 10 yards out.

Sports had an opportunity to

Dudley Sports 0 AFC Wulfrunians 5

respond immediately but Mark Gore fired over from the edge of the area.

They had another good chance just before the half-time interval when Gore fed Matt Weyman but his tame shot was easily collected

by visiting keeper Danny Tipton. The second half saw Wulfs come out with more purpose and they extended their lead in the 52nd minute.

A Mark Swann header brought a good save from Pearson only for Skedgel to bundle home the rebound.

Swann then fired just wide of the

upright before Dan Crudgington made it 3-0 on 55 minutes, firing home after being released by Anthony Cox.

Swann headed home substitute Ricky Anslow's right wing cross in the 83rd minute.

Four minutes later Anslow fired home from nine yards to complete the scoring.



Hope for Halesowen as Mark Smith heads home Yeltz's first goal but it's celebrations for Hednesford's Marvin Robinson, left, after his penalty restores the lead Pictures: Tony Marsh



Robins to be reliant on Perks as he stays

NEIL PERKS has committed his immediate future to Dudley Town after agreeing to stay at the Dell Stadium beyond the current season.

The former Bustleholme manager has overseen an upturn in fortunes for The Robins, who have moved clear of the relegation zone recently thanks to five wins in seven matches.

Perks, who took charge when Steve Hinks resigned in December, had originally signed up until the current campaign was over.

Chairman Stephen Austin said he was delighted to give Perks a more permanent role.

"Neil's brief in December was to stabilise the team and build some solid foundations with a strong core of young Dudley-based players," Austin said. "This has

been achieved in an impressive manner and we are keen for him to push the club forward over the next few seasons.

Key signings by Perks have helped launch Dudley's mini-revival, including former Croatian youth international striker Dreniz Bala. Perks said he was pleased with the way his young players had gelled.

Chance

"I have always been a big believer in giving youth a chance and so far the young lads that have been brought in have not disappointed," he said.

The manager also paid tribute to his backroom staff. "I am more than pleased that Simon Perruzzi will be continuing into next season with me," he added.

Halas round-up

Girls League Ferndale Youth 1 Halas Hawks 3

HALAS Hawks U15 girls worked hard for their win against a Ferndale side who have greatly improved over the past few months. Halas were feeding the front players well and it was only a matter of time before Kate Drew ran onto such a ball, beat the defender and stuck it in the back of the net. Ferndale equalised on the stroke of half-time. The second half saw Livi Woollams make a fantastic save from a penalty but Halas then took control and a first goal in Halas colours for Charlotte Little and one from player of the match Lauren Taylor saw them take the points.

Boys League Halas Hawks 2 Penn Colts 1

The U9 East played hosts to Penn Colts looking to build on last week's excellent win. Halas passed the ball well in the first half and were unfortunate to go behind to an own goal. Halas stepped up the pace in the second half and were rewarded when man-of-the-match Josh Yorke smashed in a long range pile-driver. This was quickly followed by the winning goal, an Oliver Miller bullet header direct from Yorke's corner.

Halas Hawks West 2 Hasbury Rangers 0

The U10s West started strongly against Hasbury and took the lead with an early goal from Josh Beasley. They continued to control the first half with some excellent defending and attacking football. Josh Beasley took his second goal mid way through the first half giving Halas a well deserved half time. Hasbury came back into the match in the second half and created a number of chances, but were unable to capitalise

due to some excellent goal keeping from Nathan Kenning and strong defending from man of the match Jack Clews.

Forest Falcons East 0 Halas Hawks East 3

All the goals in this game came in the first half as the U10s East kept up the pressure at the top. Joshua Parsons fired home a right foot shot early on before Jayden Harnett headed home a left wing corner to send the visitors two up. Jordan Ward completed the scoring cutting in from the left and beating the goal-keeper at his near post to complete a 3-0 win.

Halas Hawks 3 Gornal Colts South 0

An open game saw the U13s break the deadlock against Gornal Colts with a penalty scored by Michael Eaton. Halas continued to press and were unlucky not to extend their lead before half time. The second half saw Halas come out all guns blazing and a great cross found Tom Bagley to put the lads two up. Man of the match, Liam Holmes, then sealed the win ten minutes from time to end up 3-0 to Halas.

Halas Hawks 4 Gornal 0

The U14s East were outstanding in their emphatic 4-0 victory against league leaders Gornal. Hawks were in control from the start and thoroughly deserved their victory against a Gornal side that has been unbeaten in over a year. Halas goals arrived from Reece Marks, Mitchell Tomlinson and two sublime finishes from Josh Marks.

Halas Hawks North 2 Withymoor 2

The U15s North took on Withymoor Colts and drew 2-2 with goals from Mohammed Ali and Keiran Parkes. Man of the match went to Charlie Ramsey.

Big crowd rewarded with fine win

THE GLASSBOYS celebrated a successful first-ever Community Day as a bumper crowd of 619 - at least double the usual attendance - saw the home side win comfortably.

Gary Hackett's men could have taken the lead in the opening minute when visiting keeper Ian Brown could only palm a right-wing cross from Ryan Rowe out towards the edge of the box where the lurking Ryan Mahon sliced his half-volley over the top. Five minutes later Stour-

Stourbridge 3 Bedford 0

bridge did forge ahead as Rowe exchanged passes with Linden Dovey before being pushed in the back by Ben Islam inside the area. Dovey just managed to convert his spot-kick despite Brown getting a hand to the ball.

A minute later a long free-kick from Gavin Hoyte had Lewis Solly scampering back towards his line before the ball flew narrowly wide. The hosts responded with Sam Rock finding Aaron Drake, whose rasping shot that just cleared the bar.

Stourbridge were almost pegged back in the 31st minute when Jamie Cole's right-wing corner was met by a firm Hoyte header that crashed against the crossbar.

Two minutes later they again went close as a quick goal-kick by Solly allowed Dovey to flick the ball into the path of Rowe who screwed his shot wide of the near post.

The visitors replied soon afterwards with Callum Lewis producing a good forward run before finding Draycott, who took on Leon Broadhurst before striking his shot into the side-netting.

Stourbridge nearly doubled their lead inside a minute of the second half as a drive from Rowe cannoned off the upright.

In the 62nd minute Broadhurst regained possession and Ben Billingham was in the right place to fire home the second goal.

They made sure of victory in the 77th minute. Dovey fed Broadhurst and his cross was headed home by Rock.

Bustleholme take the win

Bustleholme 2 Shifnal Town 1

BUSTLEHOLME, with eight players missing due to injury or work commitments, dug deep to claim a West Midlands Premier League victory.

They went ahead in the 15th minute through a 25-yard screamer from Jamie Clews.

The home side got a second when Ryan Trumper's 30-yard lob found the empty net. Shifnal pulled one back through Andy Thompson.

Still top despite loss

TIPTON remain top of the Midland Alliance but suffered an awful day, going down without a whimper to inform Stratford Town.

Sam Alsop netted two cracking goals in the final 13 minutes but Tipton will worry that home keeper Joe Mellings was never once called into action throughout the 90 minutes.

Coalville's 4-2 defeat at Boldmere kept Tipton in top spot but they were now a long way from the top.

A poor opening period saw little in front of goal with both sides cancelling each other out.

Former Stratford man Jozsef Jakab missed the target from distance and

Stratford Town 2 Tipton Town 0

Alex Cowley also fired off target as Tipton were restricted to shooting from distance.

Andy Gregory headed a corner wide of the mark for the hosts in what was probably the best chance of a disappointing half.

The home side started the second half the brighter of the two with Tipton struggling for possession.

With 13 minutes left and a 0-0 draw looking likely, Stratford broke through as Alsop lashed a 30-yarder in off the underside of the bar. Alsop got his second after Thompson-Brown's penalty had been saved by Sargeant.



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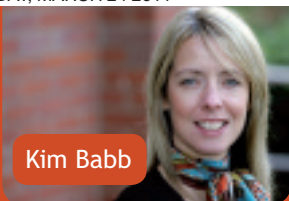


Business Skills
A division of Stourbridge College



Welcome to Business Skills

Kim Babb



Covering the Black Country and wider West Midlands, Business Skills was set up in 2007 to focus on providing training for local businesses and employers and now works with over 1,000 employers in the region including Carillion, Westfield, Debenhams, Ryman's, Fitness First and Worcester, Bosch Group. Employing 50 people based in Kidderminster, there's a professional sales team on hand to give advice and guidance.

Business Skills offers a wide range of training courses for people who are keen to build on their professional development or get back into work through training. As well as being a market leader in training for Health & Safety, including IOSH and NEBOSH, Business Skills offers a range of apprenticeships, training and assistance for the unemployed as well as gas and electric courses.

Kim Babb, Director at Business Skills, said: "We support local businesses and employers through a variety of training courses - some of which can be tailored to suit individual needs and some of which are still funded. Through our Membership Scheme we offer consultancy, training days and telephone advice at differing levels."

Business Skills is a Patron of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce and was one of the first colleges in the region to be accredited with the Training Quality Standard.

How healthy is your business?

Health & Safety Expertise is on offer at Business Skills. We offer a wide range of courses including Health & Safety (NEBOSH, IOSH and COSHH), Leadership & Management, IT, Health & Social Care and First Aid.

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Website puts customers first!

Business Skills recently launched its new website which allows customers looking for training to book and pay online! The new site - **bskills.org** - went live in January this year and has regular special offers and discounts for online bookings. All current courses are available to book online with the exception of some gas and electric training.

Don't take our word for it!

22 workers at local firm, Control Equipment Ltd based in Netherton, successfully completed qualifications in Storage & Warehouse Level 2, Team Leadership Level 2, ITQ Level 2, Business Administration Level 2 and Business Improvement Techniques Level 2. The Human Resources Manager said: "By investing in training our sales department has expanded and this has resulted in a number of internal promotions."



A total of 29 workers, based at Dudley Council's Lister Road depot, achieved health & safety qualifications with help from Business Skills. Dudley's street cleansing team which sweeps roads, cleans up graffiti and helps remove fly-tipping was named one of the top performing teams in the country by the Association of Public Service Excellence awards (APSE) for three years running.



Civvy Street to Savvy Street!

Business Skills is helping ex-forces staff to arm themselves with new qualifications to get them on the road to a new career when they leave the Army, Royal Air Force and Royal Navy.

Accredited as a preferred supplier by the Career Transition Partnership, we offer a range of training packages and courses which are guaranteed to combat a trip to the Job Centre when ex-forces personnel return to Civvy Street.



Don't take our word for it!

Business Skills helped a group of local unemployed people polish up on their skills in preparation for jobs at the Merry Hill Centre. Clean Domain Regional Manager said: *"This was an extremely well planned project and the majority of staff who were employed through the college were highly trained and very well prepared."*



The first recruits from a pioneering Hospitality Academy established by Westfield and Business Skills to help local people find employment at the new foodcourt in Merry Hill are celebrated after securing jobs at Pizza Express.

Nick Lawler, General Manager, Pizza Express, said: *"The Hospitality Academy has proved invaluable towards the success of our recruitment process so far."*



Looking for Something Special?

WE CAN HELP YOU RECRUIT AND TRAIN



If you're an employer looking for something special, Business Skills can help you recruit employees that will start work already equipped with the skills you need.

Kim Babb said: *"We offer a range of bespoke pre-employment courses that will help local employers fill their vacancies. The courses, which have ranged from call centres through to hospitality and care but which can be tailored to suit individual business needs, are on offer to local unemployed people and are designed to equip them with the skills to get back into work."*

Business Skills has worked with the AA, the Hoteliers Group and Midland Heart Housing Association recently helping them to successfully recruit and train employees.

OUR COURSES

Business Skills offers a wide range of courses including:

NEBOSH

This course, which will give you a nationally recognised qualification in health and safety, is designed for Safety Advisers requiring sound initial training for their role and for those who advise others on health and safety issues including employee health and safety representatives.

The comprehensive course offers an excellent grounding in the fundamentals of occupational safety and health management. NEBOSH qualifications are recognised and respected by employers in all sectors of the economy and provide the benchmark standard against which others are compared.

IOSH

Designed to get you up to speed on the practical action needed to handle health and safety in your workforce, this course will give you the knowledge and understanding of health and safety for employees working in any business sector.

FIRST AID

Under the First Aid Regulations 1981, every employer has a duty to provide "such numbers of suitable persons as is adequate and appropriate in the circumstances for rendering first aid to his employees if they are injured or become ill at work". Whilst the regulations do not lay down how many first-aiders may be necessary in any particular circumstance it is generally accepted that a factory, building or construction site employing more than 50 people needs at least one qualified person. Employers should also take into consideration the difficulties encountered by shift workers, sex of employees and any special hazards. The First Aid course is ideal for anyone looking to increase their knowledge and ability to deal with emergency first aid situations.

FOOD SAFETY

This course is designed for anyone working in a catering, manufacturing or retail setting where food is prepared, cooked and handled.

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Students brush up on their skills

Stourbridge College students studying Painting & Decorating Level 1 Diploma at the Advanced Technology Centre in Brierley Hill have been brushing up on their skills by painting a children's centre in Lye.

KIDS is a national charity. Locally, they operate from The Orchard Centre, offering support and services to disabled children, young people and their families, including after school activities, youth clubs, Saturday drama and dance clubs, fun and games sessions, sensory sessions, family support including home care support and information services.

The students - five in total - have completed the internal decoration in two weeks to a very high standard, supervised by lecturers from the college. Kim Fellows, Trainer, Painting & Decorating at Stourbridge College, said: "The students have really enjoyed the experience of working on a 'real job' and they have been a credit to the college. It's very important that we have links in our local community and we are grateful for the continued support of the Leyland Decorator Centre in Brierley Hill where the manager, Andy Davies, has matched colours for this project as well as supplying materials at very low cost."

Jayne Weaver, Manager at the KIDS Orchard Centre said: "We provide a valuable service in the local community, and it's fantastic to have our facilities decorated by local students. They have all been very professional, and the standard of work is extremely high. Our sincere thanks go out to Stourbridge College for involving us in this work experience project which has benefited us both."



Local firm sparks interest in apprenticeships

Local Cradley Heath company, Chapman's Electrical, has sparked interest in apprenticeships by taking on three Stourbridge College electrical students so that they can earn while they learn.

Jon Copson, 16, Michael Robinson, 16, and Andrew Greenwood, 17 have been studying Electrical Installation Advanced Apprenticeships (Level 3) at Stourbridge College's Advanced Technology Centre and were put forward to be interviewed by Chapman's Electrical after the company, which has been established for 85 years, expressed an interest in growing and nurturing their own talent through apprenticeships.

Mark Lynock from Chapman's Electrical said: "Chapman's have a long history of offering apprentices training opportunities and is committed to having a well trained workforce, whether it is in our Aerial, Electrical, Sales or Service departments. As we move into the emerging sustainable energy markets, such as Photo Voltaic electric generation, we need a highly qualified workforce and what better way to achieve this than by taking on apprentices who have shown that they are committed to their chosen trade by securing on the job qualifications. Our three new apprentices will attend college one day a week and spend the rest of the time working with us obtaining their practical skills."

Plumbers plug the apprenticeship gap

Five Stourbridge College students have been taken on by local employer Regal Building Services, proving that APPS really do work! Alex Stimm, Thomas Hunter, Adam Simner, Kyle Willets and Joshua Pountney have been employed by Regal Building services. All five students began on a Full Time Plumbing course, and now spend four days working with their employers and one day at Stourbridge College's Advanced Technology Centre in Brierley Hill perfecting their trade.

Thomas Hunter said: "I find working on site more enjoyable than being in college full time. In the 3 months I have been working on Site in Middlepark Road, Dudley I have been able to apply all of the skills I learnt in the classroom and develop them so I can now work to industry standard."

Colin Griffiths, Manager said: "I'm really pleased with all of the lads, they get stuck into all aspects of the job and are learning really quickly. They will stay with me until at least the Spring then dependant on work I hope they will move to the next project with us."

